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ARAB TIMES



MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 1990/JAMADIUL THANI 12, 1410 AH

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Sheikh Saad lauds Egypt's role in Arab world

Visit to stress investment; Prisoners to 'do time' at home under judicial pact

HIS Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Sabah is scheduled to arrive in Cairo today for a 3-day official visit focussed on economic and military co-operation.

Kuwait and Egypt will increase co-operation in various fields with particular focus on investment projects, Sheikh Saad said yesterday.

day.

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(Continued on Page 9)

Tehran says no to ties with US

NICOSIA, Jan 7, (Agencies): Iranian Parliament member Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said in an interview released today that Iran does not want ties with the United States and that the Lebanese have a right to hold foreign hostages.

On other matters, the former interior minister said developing strong relations with neighbouring countries was a priority. He also said he opposed any direct foreign investment in the Islamic republic.

In the interview with the English-language Tehran Times, Mohtashemi said Iraq was interested in developing diplomatic relations with all the countries of the world except the United States, Israel and South Africa.

Mohtashemi said the holding of foreign hostages in Lebanon was an internal matter but he believes that the Lebanese are within their rights.

"Lebanese Sunnis, Shiites, Druze and Christians are the hostages of the US, Israel and other Western powers," Mohtashemi said.

"So it's their natural right to take hostages to inflict heavy blows on their enemies."

The 18 foreigners held hostage in Lebanon are believed held by Shiite Muslim groups loyal to Iran. Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson, the longest held, was kidnapped in March 1985.

"No negotiations but force is the answer to what the enemies of the Lebanese have done against that deprived nation," he said.

The GCC member states ended their annual conference in December with a call for closer ties with the Islamic republic. Member Saudi Arabia has broken ties with Tehran in April 1988, but the other Gulf states have sought to improve relations since the August 1988 ceasefire in the Gulf war.

Demonstrations have been taking place in the Iranian holy city of Qom against any return to political life by Ayatollah Hossein Ali Mootazari, according to press reports in Tehran.

The daily newspaper Abrar said today that thousands of clergymen and laymen held a demonstration at the Fazayeh religious school. Jomhuri Eslami said yesterday that a similar protest took place outside Mootazari's home on Friday.

In Washington senator Charles Grassley, Republican of Iowa, has blasted United States strategy for freeing US hostages in Lebanon, saying US policy itself is being held hostage in an unworkable bond with Syria.

Weather

FAIR weather with light to moderate easterly wind and some clouds will appear.

State of sea: Moderate.

High water: 10.30 am, 8.11 pm

Low water: 3.30 am, 2.35 pm

Sunrise: 6.44 am

Sunset: 5.05 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 21°C 70°F

Ahmad: 19°C 65°F

Fahd: 22°C 72°F

Minister: 17°C 52°F

Ahmad: 17°C 55°F

Fahd: 17°C 55°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 22°C 72°F

Ahmad: 20°C 68°F

Fahd: 21°C 70°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 93 per cent

Ahmad: 81 per cent

Fahd: 78 per cent

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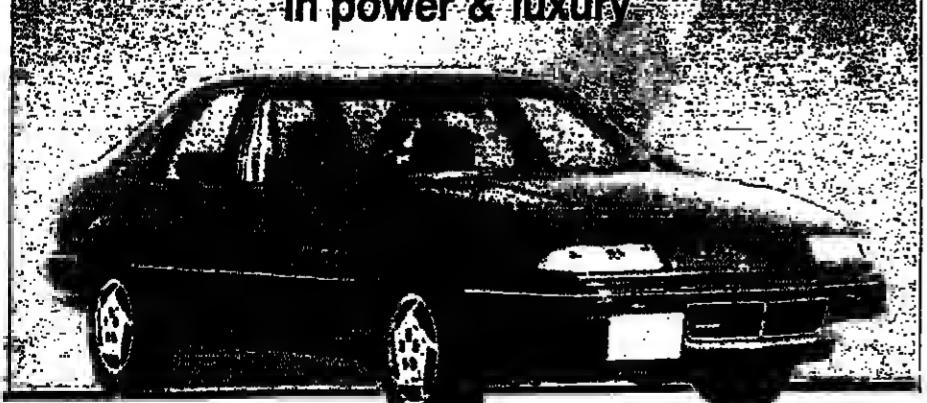
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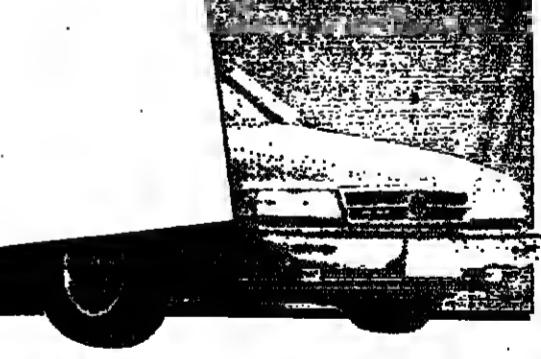
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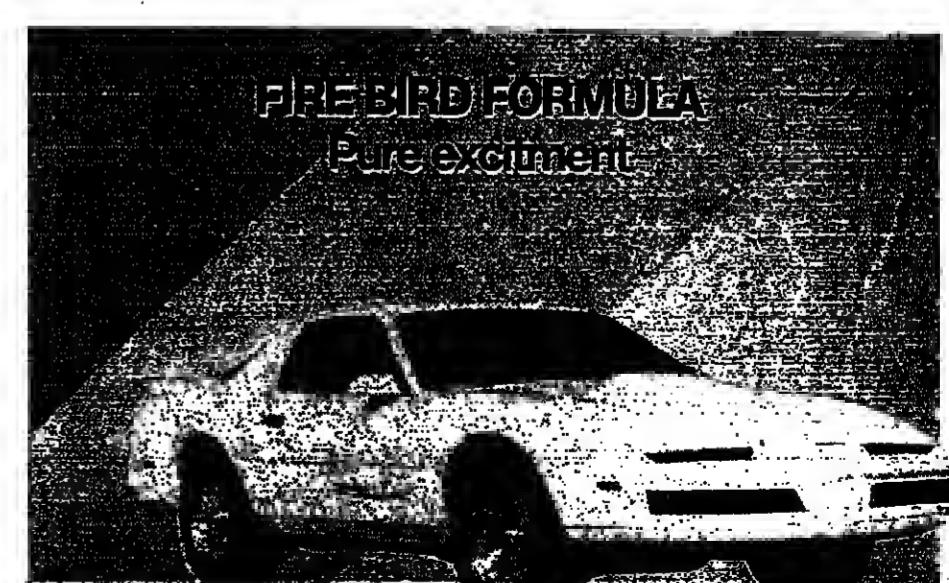


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Jackson Pollard, 123, attracts Guinness interest

MILLEDGEVILLE, Georgia, Jan 7. (UPI): Black coffee, a leather reclining chair and a pipe filled with Prince Albert may get Jackson Pollard into the Guinness Book of World Records — if they also got him to the age of 123.

If Pollard's memory is correct, he was born on Christmas Day in 1866, making him the oldest human being alive by eight years. He also would be the longest-living human being on record.

The state's co-ordinator of mental health services for the aging, Alyce Friend, has mailed Guinness information she believes backs Pollard's claim.

Friend said Guinness editors have expressed interest in

Pollard, although Pollard himself is indifferent to the honour.

"I'm still living because God wants me to live. That's all," Pollard said.

The Social Security Administration already considers Pollard the oldest recipient of benefits, although they list his birthday as 1867. In 1986, Gov. Joe Frank Harris honoured him with a proclamation congratulating him on his 120th birthday.

Much of the confusion over Pollard's age stems from a lack of birth records in the state before 1919, Friend said.

Pollard is black, which makes the problem even more

difficult because records for blacks were kept so poorly for so many years.

Pollard, a resident of Central State Hospital for 17 years, credits his longevity to the contentment he gets from his pipe — a gooseneck filled with Prince Albert tobacco — black coffee, and his leather reclining chair, where he does most of his sleeping.

He also is particular about what he eats. Rejecting hospital food, he sends his close friend and social worker, Gertrude Lee, to a nearby Soul Food Restaurant to buy him collards, black-eyed peas, snap beans, cornbread, spareribs and pork chops with his own money.

All that, and "trusting in Jesus" has kept him alive so long, said Pollard, who at one time stood 6 feet 9 inches.

Most of the records Friend found were under the name Pollock, not Pollard. Friend said Pollard had used the name Pollock before he was admitted to Central State.

She could find no record of Pollards or Pollocks in the 1870 or 1880 censuses.

Pollard said he fought in the Spanish-American war and in World War I, although the army has no record of his service.

However, army officials added that many of their records were destroyed in a fire at the St Louis warehouse

Suicide may have kept a mistress

BOSTON, Jan 7. (UPI): A farmer who killed himself a day after he was named a suspect in the slaying of his pregnant wife was buried yesterday in a quiet family service while police divers searched icy waters for the gun used in the murder.

The Boston Sunday Globe reported that investigators were trying to determine whether Stuart had a romantic interest in another woman, a 22-year-old blonde who once worked with him. The woman used Stuart's telephone credit card to call him while he was hospitalized for six weeks and also visited him at the hospital, the newspaper said.

Friends and relatives attended a private memorial service for Charles Stuart, 29, who committed suicide Thursday by jumping off a bridge 210 feet (65 m) above Boston Harbour as police sought to arrest him on murder charges.

"We cannot explain the events of the past, and we may never understand them," the Rev. Richard Messina told 125 people gathered at Immaculate Conception Church in Revere for the funeral of Stuart, who had managed an exclusive downtown bar saloon. "We can do nothing but trust in the Lord and believe that his mercy will take care of us all, and that includes Chuck."

Sources close to the case said all but one of Stuart's three brothers and sisters were believed to have known about his involvement in the shooting within three days of the shooting, when they met to discuss it, the Globe said.

State police divers searched beneath the Pines River in Revere, Massachusetts, northeast of Boston, for a nickel-plated .38-calibre revolver.

Divers already have found Mrs Stuart's Gucci bag, a wallet, makeup and other personal belongings underneath a bridge. The discoveries were made after disclosures by Matthew Stuart, the victim's brother-in-law, whose talks with police apparently triggered a bizarre twist in the case that riveted national attention.

Meanwhile, the initial outpouring of sympathy toward Stuart has shifted to anger and charges of racism as authorities disclosed allegations that Stuart staged a robbery and sought to blame a black man for abducting, robbing and shooting the suburban couple as they left a child birth class.

Carol Stuart died of a gunshot wound to the head several hours after the shooting. A baby boy, delivered prematurely by Cesarean section just before she was pronounced dead, died 17 days later.

Stuart's younger brother Matthew Stuart's lawyer, John Perey, said his client met Charles Stuart, who threw a bag apparently containing a gun, his wife's engagement ring and other material into the window of Matthew's car and told him, "take this to Revere," where their parents live.

Therapy

The Herald also reported Charles Stuart had undergone cocaine detoxification while recuperating from his gunshot wound.

Both the Herald and the WCVB television station in Boston reported Stuart admitted the killing the day before he committed suicide but did not say to whom.

The station said it was told by a source "close to the family" that Stuart said he committed the crime in order to cash in on an insurance policy on his wife.

WCWB-TV said Stuart intended to shoot himself in the foot but moved just before he pulled the trigger and the bullet struck him in the abdomen.

The source said Stuart told him he had asked another family member to kill Carol Stuart a month before the murder, but Stuart said that person had nothing to do with the actual crime, the station reported.

Don Muhammad, a clergyman at a mosque in the Roxbury section said, some black leaders want an apology from the mayor. To apologize is nothing. That's like stabbing me in the back, pulling the knife out and saying you're sorry."

Major Raymond L. Flynn apologized to Bennett's family Thursday night in a personal visit. He blamed Stuart for concocting a "devious scheme" and agreed the community in general is owed an apology.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Critic says Americans can't sing it

Scrap 'Star - Spangled Banner'

BALTIMORE, Jan 7. (AP): Oh say, can you sing your national anthem? Most Americans can't sing theirs, according to a US Congressman who wants to scrap "the Star-Spangled Banner" as this country's official song.

He favours the less straining "America the Beautiful."

US Rep. Andrew Jacobs of Indiana says the song penned by Francis Scott Key after US troops repelled British forces at Baltimore's Fort McHenry in 1814 also is unsuitable because it celebrates war — and because the tune's origin is an old drinking song — and an English one, to boot.

Jacobs' introduction of a bill to make the change, though nothing new, has provoked a chorus of dis-

sent.

"Who says you can't sing it?" said Darlene Frank, spokeswoman of the Maryland Historical Society.

The society held a contest in September to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the writing of the anthem and found "more than 300 patriotic Americans who loved the song enough to want to sing it in public ... and a cappella, no less," said Frank in a letter dismissing Jacob's proposal.

Critics say "The Star-Spangled Banner" is difficult to sing because it has a wide voice range of an octave plus a fifth.

They also say "America the Beautiful" is gradually eclipsing "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the song of choice at official functions.

achievement awards at this year's Grammy Awards ceremonies.

McCartney, Clark and Davis have agreed to appear Feb 21 at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles for the Grammy telecast, said Michael Greene, president of the National Academy of Recording Artists.

McCartney's impact on music as a songwriter and member of the Beatles, as well as his continuing growth as a solo performer were cited as reasons for his award.

Davis played a crucial role in the development of jazz since the 1940s, the academy said. (AP)

Ike's grand-daughter to wed

Susan Eisenhower, grand-daughter of former US president Dwight David Eisenhower, poses with her fiance, prominent Soviet scientist Ralid Sagdeev, Jan 5 in Washington. The Eisenhower World Affairs Institute announced yesterday that the marriage will be held in both Moscow and Washington. (Reuter wirephoto)

Ringo Starr vs Moman

Claim victory

ATLANTA, Jan 7. (UPI): Attorneys for Ringo Starr and a Tennessee record producer, who was ordered to turn over potentially embarrassing recordings to the former Beatle in exchange for \$74,000 in expenses, each claimed victory yesterday in a contract dispute.

The ruling Friday by Fulton county superior court judge Clarence Cooper apparently ensured the British rock star does not have to worry about the career impact of recordings he made in 1987 while under the influence of alcohol.

"We're very happy with that," said Starr's attorney, Jane Stevens. "Yes, that was our goal."

Atlanta attorney Thomas Washburn III said he considered the ruling a "partial victory" for producer Chip Moman of Memphis, Tennessee, but would appeal to uphold an alleged verbal agreement in which Starr agreed to share royalties on his next two albums with Moman.

Moman and CRS Records of College Park, Georgia, were seeking \$162,000 for expenses such as tapes and musicians' salaries incurred at a Memphis studio where Starr recorded in 1987, as well as judicial validation of the verbal agreement on future recordings.

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Noriega 'sold Panama for money'

Military planes and airfields used for drug shipments

MIAMI, Jan 7, (AP): Manuel Antonio Noriega used his power as head of Panama's intelligence unit, its military and then the entire country to give aid, comfort and shelter to Colombian cocaine traffickers in return for millions of dollars, the indictment against him charges.

Noriega has been accused in testimony of detailing soldiers as bodyguards for Colombian drug traffickers, allowing military planes and airfields to be used for drug shipments, providing traffickers with intelligence information about US anti-drug operations and sending armoured cars to transport drug money.

And when Colombian drug lords were angered over a raid on a cocaine lab in Panama, the indictment says, Cuban President Fidel Castro got them and Noriega together in Havana to mediate a settlement.

"By utilising his official positions, Man-

uel Antonio Noriega and trusted associates were able to assure drug traffickers that Panamanian military, customs and law enforcement personnel would not interfere with their operations in Panama as long as substantial fees were paid to (Noriega)," says the indictment issued in Miami on Feb 4, 1988.

Since their arraignment in Miami on Thursday, Noriega's attorneys have been working on challenges to the indictment and the court's jurisdiction. They say the indictment was political and that Noriega claims innocence.

He could face up to 145 years in prison and more than \$1.1 million in fines on charges that include conspiracy and racketeering.

The indictment names 15 other defendants ranging from Brian Alden Davidow, a jailed Miami college student charged

with meeting with Noriega to arrange cocaine shipments, to Pablo Escobar Gaviria, the reputed Medellin cartel cocaine kingpin being pursued by Colombian authorities.

US officials have accused leaders of other governments, particularly Cuba, of helping drug traffic to the United States for political reasons, but Noriega's prime motivation seemed to be money, officials say.

US authorities say they have identified at least \$10 million kept in European banks by Noriega, who rose from a poor family and reputedly supplemented his \$60,000 annual salary with interests in casinos, liquor stores, news media outlets and banks.

"Money attracted him (to drug traffic). Noriega really loves money and luxury," said Ambler Moss, a former US ambassador.

sador to Panama.

The Miami indictment details at least \$4.6 million in payments Noriega allegedly received for protecting cocaine and drug money shipments, selling seized ether and acetone used in making cocaine to Colombian drug traffickers, and for giving sanctuary to drug dealers in 1984 when the Colombian government went after them following the assassination of a justice minister.

Noriega also is accused of allowing establishment of a cocaine laboratory in Panama's Darien province and helping the manufacture of cocaine in another laboratory in the nearby Colombian area dubbed "Tranquilandia."

A separate indictment in Tampa says Noriega agreed to protect two marijuana shipments totalling 1.4 million pounds (\$300,000 kgs) for \$4 million, of which he received \$1 million.

Probe on Harari's role demanded

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 7, (AP): An Israeli legislator demanded yesterday that the Parliament investigate the role played in Panama by Mike Harari, identified by US officials as a top aide to the deposed Panamanian leader Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Yossi Sarid of the left-wing Citizens' Rights Movement said in a statement carried by the national Itim news agency that "an attempt to present Harari as an ordinary, innocent businessman in Panama ... is more ridiculous than ridiculous."

"There is no doubt that Harari was Noriega's right-hand man," said Sarid, a member of the Parliament's foreign affairs and security committee. He said the committee should appoint a group of members to investigate Harari's role in Panama.

Harari, once a senior official at Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, denied in a taped Israeli television interview broadcast on Friday that he had served as security adviser to the dictator.

"I want to tell you: I'm not Noriega's adviser and have not been in the past ... I have not been in charge of his business affairs; I have not been in charge or instructed his forces, I have not organised his personal security. I'm just a private man who deals in trade," Harari said.

Harari said he arrived in Panama by chance in the early 1960s and planned to spend 24 to 48 hours in the country.

"A Jewish friend offered me to meet a young major, in this case it was Omar Torrijos (Harera)," Harari said, adding that Torrijos was described as a person interested in Israel.

Harari said he was reluctant, but then "I was pressed and asked ... and when I met this personality, and I stress personality, chemistry was at work between us, and instead of 15 minutes I spent seven hours with him. We became friends."

"Several months after this young major was promoted to the rank of colonel and then had a coup in October 1968," deposing President Arnulf Arias, Harari said.

Harari said he continued to visit the "great leader" Torrijos several times a year. During one of the visits, in 1980, Torrijos introduced him to Noriega. Shortly after, Torrijos was killed in an accident, and Noriega came to power three years later.

Harari said he voluntarily resigned from "government service" in 1980 and became a private businessman.

"When I resigned, I decided not to deal with intelligence and security, because this is what I was doing in the past, and not to engage in weapons trade ... I tried to deal in agriculture, promote housing and trade projects, and (self) equipment but could not find equipment," he said.

Harari described his relationship with Noriega as "friendly" and said:

"I knew Noriega as a wise, energetic, patriotic man; a commanding man who has an outstanding ability to survive, to make friends, to organise, to hold the reigns of power and co-ordinate state affairs."

"Noriega is an American creature ... the Americans have created and developed and raised him. Noriega was pro-American and still is pro-American. I think, in spite of his present position, he said.

Harari indicated he thought the United States was behind media reports about his involvement in Panama, which he termed "a campaign of disinformation and psychological war against me."

He denied newspaper reports about his alleged trips to Colombia and Nicaragua, saying he had never visited these countries and never applied Israeli-made weapons to Panama.

Warship to lead anti-drug drive

Gunmen kill Barco aide

BOGOTA, Jan 7, (AP): A Defence Department source in Washington said the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy has been chosen to lead an anti-drug effort off the coast of Colombia, but that final decisions on when the warship will be put to work had not been made. The source spoke on condition of anonymity.

The carrier and an accompanying guided missile cruiser, the USS Virginia, left on Thursday to engage in routine training exercises in the Atlantic, the source said, but he added that questions remained about whether the warships would see duty in a proposed US-Colombian anti-drug effort.

In Medellin, a motorcycle gunman shot and killed Roberto Lozano Suarez, an adviser to President Virgilio Barco as his car idled at a traffic light yesterday. Police said two other men in the car were not hurt.

Authorities said they had no motive for the killing of Lozano, a 42-year-old land-reform adviser to Barco from the northwest Banana region of Uraba.

In Bogota, a car bomb detonated late yesterday outside the offices of businessman Alvaro Diego Montoya, who was abducted by suspected drug traffickers last Dec 20. Montoya is the son of presidential adviser German Montoya. Barco's closest confidant.

The blast shattered windows over a three-block radius, damaged half a dozen stores and injured three people, none seriously, police said.

A communiqué issued to radio networks Caracol said Montoya's captors would kill him unless four people arrested by the secret police were released.

The police said they had never heard of the four.

The US Embassy in Bogota, in response to radio reports, said the United States was stepping up air and sea patrols in the Caribbean in a bid to block

cocaine smuggling routes.

The embassy statement did not give a date for the start of operations, or elaborate on the number of ships and planes to be involved.

"All operations will be conducted in international waters far from the Colombian coast," it said. "Contacts with boats and planes will follow norms dictated by international laws and practices."

Radio networks Caracol and RCN quoted unidentified US Defence sources as saying the Kennedy and the Cruiser Virginia were headed for Colombia's Caribbean Coast to set up a blockade. They did not elaborate.

US Defence Department information officer Chris Cimko confirmed that the Kennedy and the Virginia had sailed from the United States on Thursday but said they were headed for routine training in the Atlantic.

Meanwhile yesterday, leftist rebels continued a violent campaign in the countryside. Mayor Carlos Torrado, of the town of Abrego, and three others died in a rebel land mine yesterday as they drove down a road in the northeastern state of Norte de Santander, police said. Abrego is 250 miles (400 km) northeast of Bogota.

The New York Times, in today's editions, said US officials had planned to announce details of the drug plans earlier, but that Colombian authorities refused this past week to meet with a US team that had been sent to explain the navy's plan.

US administration officials said in Washington, however, that they are confident Barco will co-operate with the US plan.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney is expected soon to announce a White House-approved plan for getting US military forces more deeply involved in the international drug battle.

"It's a no-loss situation because the trial will showcase the weakness of computer security and current computer security law," said Harold Highland, a professor emeritus of computer science for the State University of New York and editor of "Computer and Security," a trade journal.

"If the government loses, (computer security advocates) will say there is a need for stronger laws. If the government wins, they'll say he did it because the system is weak and we need to tighten up the system," said Highland.

"Either way it goes, the pure attention is going to fuel the cry for tougher laws and better security," agreed Christopher A. Broedel, a top officer with American Computer Security Industries Inc., a maker of security systems.

Computer crime specialists view Morris' case as the first real test of the three-year-old federal law, which they claim is too ambiguous.

It is a felony to "intentionally access a federal interest computer without authorisation and alter, destroy or damage information, or prevent access" to such computers.

The law applies only to federal government computers, computers of financial institutions and networks involving computers in more than one state.



Mike Harari believed to be Noriega's 'main man'

Verdict to be test-case

'Worm' trial opens

SYRACUSE, New York, Jan 7, (AP): The man charged with crippling a computer system used by NASA and the military goes to trial Monday, and computer experts foresee benefits no matter what the verdict.

Robert T. Morris Jr., 24, is the first person to be tried criminally under the three-year-old federal computer fraud and abuse act.

The one-time doctoral student at prestigious Cornell University is accused of designing and setting loose in November 1988 a rogue programme that replicated wildly, immobilizing an estimated 6,000 computers linked to a research computer network, including computers at a National Aeronautics and Space Administration facility and the US Air Force Logistics Command.

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Appeals court orders fresh trial in smoker's death suit

PHILADELPHIA, Jan 7, (AP): A federal appeals court has thrown out a \$400,000 verdict against a cigarette maker in the death of a smoker, but is giving her family a chance for a new trial on another aspect of their case against three tobacco companies.

The damage judgment had been set aside in the United States in a smoker-death case. Rose Cipollone, of Little Ferry, New Jersey, died of lung cancer at age 55 in 1984, after smoking for 42 years.

In its complex ruling, the 3rd US circuit court of appeals on Friday affirmed a US district court ruling that dismissed claims of Mrs Cipollone's family that the cigarette companies failed to warn of the risks of tobacco smoking after 1965, when a federal labelling requirement took effect.

In addition, the court reversed a jury's award of \$140,000 to Mrs Cipollone's husband, Antonio Cipollone of Lakewood, New Jersey, on ground the company had violated an express warranty, or advertising promise that its products were safe.

But the family did win the right to a new trial against the three on one aspect of the case.

The court, in an opinion written by judge Edward R. Becker, said Cipollone has "live claims" against Liggett and the other two companies, Lorillard Inc. and Philip Morris Inc., on grounds they marketed the product knowing the risks of cigarette smoking.

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Klansmen rally

About 50 white supremacists held a rally Wednesday morning, lacing about 100 counter-demonstrators and surrounded by more than 2,000 police who sealed off an area surrounding the state Capitol building.

The Ku Klux Klan-led rally ended without any confrontations after about 75 minutes. However, a shooting match broke out as Klansmen returned to their cars. Counter-demonstrators in half-block away began jeering and the supremacists responded with shouts and Nazi-style salutes.

As a Klan motorcade left the Capitol area, counter-demonstrators burned a figure made of sheets as a Ku Klux Klan effigy.

Officials said 1,594 Georgia National Guardsmen, 300 Atlanta police officers, 184 State Troopers and 145 agents from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation were present during the rally, separating the Klan contingent from about two dozen counter-demonstrators who marched two blocks away.

About 30 of the white supremacists were dressed in white Klan robes, while others wore camouflage fatigues or pseudo-Nazi garb.

Chants from the counter-demonstrators and the rumble of police and television helicopters drowned out the Klan.

Picture shows an angry Klanman yelling at a reporter. (Reuter wirephoto)

Mum pleads guilty in drug-related slaying of her kids

WASHINGTON, Jan 7, (UPI): A young mother has pleaded guilty to murdering her two small children and attempting to kill a third while under the influence of crack cocaine, a published report said yesterday.

Patricia Hill, 29, pleaded guilty in District of Columbia superior court Friday to one count of first-degree murder while armed, one count of second-degree murder while armed and one count of unarmed assault with intent to kill.

Prosecutors agreed to drop a count of cruelty to children.

Hill told police that the night before she strangled her daughter Kristina, 8, and son Eric, 4, with a

clothes line, she secretly took her husband's automatic bank card and withdrew \$50 to purchase "three little packages of crack," the Washington Post reported.

She smoked the drug through the early morning. Later, she drove her husband to work, came back home, smoked more crack, then took two of her children into the basement where she strangled the eldest child, the report said.

US attorney Jay Stephens said prosecutors held out for a tough bargain in plea negotiations to send a message that defendants don't get off easy by using drug abuse as an excuse.

A nation-wide search ensued while Hill wandered aimlessly around the District for a week, sleeping in abandoned buildings, purchasing and smoking crack.

DC superior court judge Ricardo Urbina has set sentencing for March 2.

On the first-degree murder counts alone, Hill will receive 20 years to life and she must serve a mandatory minimum of 20 years.

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Sharon Bluntschley, 31, turned herself in yesterday said

Panama invasion to be put on trial

Noriega must be freed: lawyer

MIAMI, Jan 7, (Reuter): A lawyer for deposed Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega vowed yesterday to put the US invasion of Panama on trial before the jailed former strongman ever faces a jury on drug-trafficking charges.

Miami lawyer Steven Kollin said a crucial component of the defence team's pre-trial strategy would be to prove that the December 20 invasion that toppled Noriega and led to his capture was a violation of international law.

INTERNATIONAL

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 1990

Over Soviet territory KAL flight allowed

SEOUL, South Korea, Jan 7. (AP): The Soviet Union allowed a Paris-bound Korean Air jetliner to fly over Soviet territory today after the plane was prevented from landing at its usual refueling stop in Anchorage, officials said.

The KAL Jumbo jetliner, carrying 290 passengers and crewmen, arrived in Paris shortly before noon (0300 GMT) today after a 13-hour flight over Nigata, Japan, and Moscow and Khabarovsk in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union and South Korea have no diplomatic relations but they have recently expanded economic and other non-political contacts. Early last month, the two nations established a de facto consular relationship.



Piggyback

A Vietnamese refugee carries her sister outside Hong Kong's open "Pillar Point Refugee Camp" Dec 30. Pillar Point is a temporary camp holding legitimate refugees who are able to work and shop in HK, while they await resettlement in a third country. (Reuter wirephoto)

UK confirms secret talks

Thatcher aide visited China

LONDON, Jan 7. (AP): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's foreign policy adviser secretly visited Beijing last month, her office said today.

A spokesman for Mrs Thatcher's office, speaking on condition that he not be identified, declined to discuss the substance of Sir Percy Cradock's talks with Chinese officials in early December.

The spokesman said Cradock was one of a number of British officials who had visited China in recent months.

However, Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency, said Cradock was the first high-ranking British visitor since China brutally suppressed pro-democracy demonstrators in the capital in June.

Press Association said the visit was intended to defuse a controversy over Britain's offer to resettle up to 225,000 Hong Kong Chinese when the colony reverts to Chinese control in 1997.

The Chinese government has attacked the offer as a gross violation of agreements between Britain and China.

Sir David Wilson, governor of Hong Kong, plans to visit Beijing last July and December helped ease tensions between the two countries, but one Bush official refused to specify what the Chinese have done to show a turn towards democracy.

Moreover, a published threat last week that China will strike back against the United States for Bush's promise to let Chinese students remain here if they fear persecution at home did little to raise hopes of reforms in China.

Bomb blast near Indian Parliament

NEW DELHI, Jan 7. (AP): A small homemade bomb exploded under a tree outside Parliament today but no one was injured, police said.

"It was a very crude device without much lethal power," a senior police official said. "There is no damage to

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In 1983, KAL flight 007 was shot down by a Soviet fighter after it apparently veered off course on a flight from Anchorage and flew near sensitive Soviet military facilities in the Sea of Okhotsk. All 269 people aboard the Boeing 747 passenger jet were killed, causing a storm of international protest.

Today, at the request of KAL, Moscow allowed the South Korean plane to fly over Soviet territory after Anchorage airport was closed because the eruption of a nearby volcano filled the sky with clouds of ash.

It was the first time a regular KAL flight was allowed to pass through the Soviet air route to Europe.

Khmer rebels step up attacks

BANGKOK, Jan 7. (Agencies): Khmer Rouge rebels said today their forces were engaged in heavy fighting in Cambodia's second largest city and had ambushed government tanks sent to relieve the beleaguered town.

Western diplomats said the attack would be a major blow to morale in Phnom Penh, which has lost control of large rural areas in the west to rebels but has so far held onto towns.

The offensive could not be independently confirmed.

Defenders in the provincial capital of Battambang, 230 km (127 miles) northwest of Phnom Penh, called in tanks to support them after the attack was launched on Friday, Khmer Rouge radio, monitored in Bangkok, said.

As government armor and reinforcements approached the town they were ambushed and partly routed by the Khmer Rouge, the radio said.

The rebels attacked the regional military headquarters, the city's airfield at Bok Chea, the new market, and what the radio described as Vietnamese barracks.

"Battambang town burns brightly. The fire was still raging at dawn," it said, quoting from a dispatch received yesterday.

On the 13th anniversary of the Jan 7 installation of the Phnom Penh government, "the Ha Noi-Vietnam enemy aggressors are in a situation of defeat and great difficulty in every field," a communiqué on Khmer Rouge radio said.

"You cannot say on the one hand that you hand back Vietnamese boat people to a communist regime because they are economic migrants and not at risk of political persecution, and on the other say you will have economic migrants from Hong Kong," Tebbit said.

In December, Hong Kong repatriated the first of thousands of Vietnamese "boat people" who have sought refuge in the colony.

Meanwhile, threats from Beijing of retaliation for US support of Chinese students has raised new questions about President George Bush's policy of secret diplomacy with China after the Tiananmen Square massacre.

The White House says high-level US missions to Beijing last July and December helped ease tensions between the two countries, but one Bush official refused to specify what the Chinese have done to show a turn towards democracy.

Moreover, a published threat last week that China will strike back against the United States for Bush's promise to let Chinese students remain here if they fear persecution at home did little to raise hopes of reforms in China.

Redstone computer system model

RS286-7h (AT)



Joy ride

A young girl rides along in near panic as her father propels them across the ice in a sled made to look like a goat at Purple Bamboo Park in Beijing. Thousands of Beijing residents pour into city parks on Sundays to enjoy winter activities. (Reuter wirephoto)

US envoy visits Kwangju

SEOUL, South Korea, Jan 7. (AP): US Ambassador Donald Gregg met today with leading citizens of Kwangju in an apparent effort to turn around anti-American sentiment in the provincial city, scene of a 1980 civil uprising.

Gregg, who assumed the Seoul post last year, was the first US ambassador to visit Kwangju since a 10-day uprising left approximately 200 people dead and more than 1,500 others wounded, by official count.

Anti-US sentiment has been relatively high in Kwangju, many of whose citizens believe that Washington condoned the use of the Korean military to suppress the uprising.

Washington repeatedly has denied the allegations, but Gregg's two immediate predecessors — James Lilely and Richard Walker — had both stayed away from the city.

Today, Gregg had dinner with dozens of leading citizens, including Mayor Choi In-ki, at a downtown restaurant. He was scheduled to meet with dissident and student leaders in the city before returning to Seoul on Tuesday.

The South Korean News Agency, Yonhap, quoted Gregg as describing his trip to Kwangju as "routine and nothing special." It said the ambassador was expected to try to explain Washington's position on the 1980 bloodshed.

Gregg also expressed hope that the US cultural centre in the city, shut down temporarily last year, would reopen at a new location before the end of this year, Yonhap said.

Brunei frees six politicos

27 years in detention

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 7. (Reuter): The oil-rich Sultanate which gained independence in 1984.

The party had won all 16 elected seats in the legislative council in elections that year and proposed forming a single independent state comprising Brunei and the British colonial territories of Sarawak and North Borneo (now Sabah).

The revolt, launched after the Sultan postponed the first session of the newly-elected legislative council, was put down after several days by Gurkhas rushed in from Singapore.

It remains the most bitter chapter in the modern history of Brunei, an immensely wealthy country which is situated on the island of Borneo and has a population of 230,000.

The official statement named the six released detainees as Tengku Bin Mohamad, Sarponan Bin Sarmo, Bahi Bin Mohammad, Suhaili Bin Rada, Sulaiman Bin Metashad and Sheikh Nikman Bin Metashad.

It did not say how many political detainees were still being held.

Japan's imperial family, officials mark Hirohito death anniversary

TOKYO, Jan 7. (AP): Japan's imperial family and ranking government officials today marked the first anniversary of emperor Hirohito's death at the imperial palace and the late monarch's tomb.

The anniversary ended an official yearlong mourning period for the royal household, which in coming months will celebrate the marriage of a prince and the coronation of Hirohito's son, Emperor Akihito.

Earlier today, Akihito and Empress Michiko presided over a quiet ceremony in an imperial palace chamber where, according to tradition, the late emperor's spirit is enshrined until his tomb is completed.

About 115 guests, including Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and leaders of parliament, attended the rite at which Akihito read a short prayer for his father's soul. The empress dowager Nagako, 86, did not attend because of hip and back problems.

Another ceremony was held later today at Hirohito's tomb. Construction of the dome-shaped, 10-metre (10-yard) mausoleum in suburban Tokyo was completed yesterday at a reported cost of 2.6 billion yen (\$18.5 million).

Hirohito died of cancer in Jan 7, 1989, at the age of 87.

His 62-year reign was the longest in Japanese history, and covered a difficult period of

militarist adventurism, defeat, foreign occupation and rapid economic reconstruction.

The reclusive emperor's final battle with cancer lasted several months, creating a gloomy national mood, as concerts, sporting events and even weddings were called off.

Although Hirohito was overshadowed by questions about his responsibility for Japan's actions in World War II, envoys from 163 nations, including US President George Bush, attended his state funeral last February.

The Yomiuri said 52.7 per cent of the 3,000 adults polled nation-wide said they feel affection for Emperor Akihito, 25.1 per cent said they have no interest in him and 15.8 said he instills respect.

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Bulgaria divided over thorny issue of ethnic Turks

SOFIA, Jan 7, (Reuters): Bulgaria's crawl towards democracy has stumbled over the thorny issue of the rights of ethnic Turks which has turned some nationalists against opposition leaders trying to free the country from communism.

Almost overnight, the mushrooming opposition movement found itself sliding in popularity for supporting a Communist Party decision to restore religious and cultural rights to the country's 1.5 million Muslims.

Since last Monday, thousands of Bul-

garians full of nationalist fervour have taken to the streets of Sofia and other cities and towns demanding a referendum on the issue and calling for the government to resign for rejecting this proposal.

For now, the struggle for democracy in this mainly-peasant nation of nine million appears forgotten as yesterday's heroes find themselves today's villains.

Constantin Trenchev, leader of the unofficial trade union Podkrepa and tipped for possible leadership in a post-communist Bul-

garia, has been singled out for abuse by nationalists who have branded him a traitor for supporting the Turkish cause.

"Yesterday I was crossing the square and they wanted to hang me because they took me for Mr Trenchev," said Petar Beron, an opposition leader who, like Trenchev, sports a beard.

He was referring to Sofia's parliament square, which over the past week has become the focal point for the anti-Turkish movement and where Podkrepa supporters and pro-

stomers against Turkish rights came to blows during rival rallies last Thursday.

Only last month, the square was a scene of jubilation for ethnic Turks who wept for joy when told they could have their Muslim names back and practice their religion freely after years of repression under a policy of forced assimilation devised and implemented by ousted hardline leader Todor Zhivkov.

The country's 200,000 Bulgarian Muslims, or Pomaks, were victims of a similar policy in the 1970s.

But organisers of the anti-Turkish protests, which began in the town of Kurdzhali in the predominantly Turkish populated south east and spread across the country, say they are not opposed to ethnic Turks regaining their rights but reject the way the decision was imposed on the people by the party.

"We are against the decision because it was done in the old way, by Diktat, from the central committee. We are asking for such issues to be decided in a democratic way," said Stoiko Stoyanov, a member of Kurdzhali

committee that has led the calls for a referendum.

Ironically it is the unprecedented freedom allowed under the reformist communist leadership of Petar Mladenov which has let people express their grievances undeterred by police.

The nationalist unrest has sidetracked the already slow pace of reform that has left Bulgaria languishing behind Warsaw Pact Allies further down the road to democracy.

Soweto students urged to defy govt

SOWETO, Jan 7, (AP): Black parents and students today demanded the oulification of high schools exams failed by 58 per cent of black pupils and urged the failing youths to re-enroll in defiance of government rules.

The two steps were endorsed at an unprecedented community meeting attended by more than 1,000 people in Soweto, the country's largest black township and one of the hardest hit by the worsening crisis in black education.

Nationally, only 42 per cent of more than 190,000 black high school seniors passed standardised matriculation exams late last year, compared to more than 95 per cent of white students. At high schools in Soweto, home to 2.5 million blacks outside Johannesburg, the pass rate was less than 30 per cent.

Today's meeting was organised by anti-apartheid activists specialising in education issues, some of whom have spent long periods in detention. The chairman, Vusi Khamiye, was one of three activists who won his freedom by escaping to refuge at the US consulate in Johannesburg in 1988.

Most speakers in the crowded auditorium blamed the white-controlled Department of Education and Training for causing the school crisis through overcrowding, underfunding and lack of commitment to black progress. The government spends five times as much to educate a white pupil as a black pupil.

But some participants said black students and political activists shared the blame. One teacher said students could have studied harder, and a parent said anti-apartheid groups were wrong to have encouraged students to join politically oriented general strikes and boycotts that frequently disrupted schooling over the past five years.

One youth representing a militant student organisation said: "We charge the whole community to take the responsibility of getting involved and to take control of our schools."

Addressing students, the youth said: "Go back to your battle trenches, which are the schools themselves."

■ **Angola:** Angola's US-backed Unita guerrillas claimed they killed 86 government soldiers and shot down a military transport plane in heavy fighting in southeast Angola, according to reports reaching Lisbon yesterday.

The rebel statement, issued from their bush stronghold of Jamba, said 13 Unita fighters also died in fighting between Dec 27 and Jan 3.

In a later message distributed to Lisbon, the rebels said their artillery destroyed a C-130 Hercules transport plane flying government reinforcements to the southeast.

The statement claimed most of the plane's occupants perished, but did not give figures.

■ **South Africa:** Two men arrested for fighting in a beach-front children's wading pool were freed by hundreds of angry blacks who pelted police with stones and bottles, police said yesterday.

The incident occurred Friday in the resort city of Durban.

It was one of the worst confrontations since President F.W. de Klerk's proclamation before the Christmas holidays that formerly segregated beaches would be open to all races.

Arms negotiator Graham dies

SEATTLE, Jan 7, (UPI): Robert W. Graham, a long-time Seattle attorney and civic activist who served under former US President Ronald Reagan as an arms negotiator, died Friday after a long illness. He was 74.

Graham served as a personal representative to US Defence Secretaries Caspar Weinberger and Frank Carlucci in 1986 as a negotiator in the mutual and balanced force reduction talks between Nato and Warsaw Pact countries.

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

St. Helens erupts: Mount St Helens has belched volcanic ash that settled over a south-central Washington community while seismic equipment detected a small explosion in Alaska's Redoubt volcano that prompted flight restrictions.

The national weather service reported a light dusting of ash Saturday, south of Yakima, Washington, in an area about 80 miles (120 kilometres) east of Mount St. Helens.

Steve Malone, a seismologist with the University of Washington in Seattle, said seismographs and other equipment within the crater of Mount St. Helens had recorded a small eruption before dawn Saturday. (AP)

Actor Kennedy dies: Arthur Kennedy, the versatile character actor of stage and screen who was nominated for five Academy Awards in a 50-year career, has died in a Connecticut nursing home, a spokesman for the facility said Saturday.

A spokesman for the Bradford (Connecticut) Hospital, a terminal care facility, said Kennedy died at 6 pm Friday of brain tumour. He was 75.

Keeney was nominated five times for an Academy Award for his work in Hollywood but lost each time. He won a Tony Award on the New York stage for his performance in Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" in 1949. (UPI)

27 hurt in jail melees: Prisoners battled with makeshift weapons Saturday night in a 20-minute, racially-charged melee at a badly crowded county jail that left 27 inmates injured, authorities said.

The disturbance began about 9:30 pm (0530 GMT Sunday), when some prisoners at the San Diego County South Bay Detention Centre refused to enter their cells, said county sheriff's deputy Lori-Anne McNally.

"The riot lasted for approximately 20 minutes and it developed along lines between Hispanics and black inmates," said Sgt. Jim Cooke, a jail spokesman. (AP)

Europe

Swiss acquire new plane: The Swiss government has finally acquired a modern executive jet aircraft after years of using an often embarrassingly small propeller plane.

One of the world's wealthiest but also most frugal nations, Switzerland had its cabinet ministers use little short-range aircraft for official trips — the last American-made beechcraft King Air bought in 1983. (UPI)

'Save the Alps' initiative: Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, and the Bellerive Foundation estab-

In Moscow show

Queen's treasures

LONDON, Jan 7, (Reuters): Britain's Queen Elizabeth has agreed in principle to allow art treasures from her private collection to go on show to the Soviet Union for the first time, Buckingham Palace said today.

The Sunday Times newspaper said two Fabergé Easter eggs which once belonged to the Queen's relative Tsar Nicolas II, shot dead by the Bolsheviks in 1918, would be shown in Moscow later this month.

The eggs, encrusted with gold, silver, diamonds and precious stones, carry portraits of the Tsar's five children, who were killed with their father and mother Alexandra by the Cheka political police at Ekaterinburg in the 1910s.

Produced by goldsmith Peter Carl Faberge, the eggs were later bought by King George V, the Queen's grandfather, and his wife Queen Mary.

The Sunday Times said the eggs, now on display in San Diego, California, would be flown to Moscow later this month for an exhibition in the Kremlin's armoury museum.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman confirmed the queen had agreed in principle to the loan and said final details were being arranged.

Relations between Moscow and the British royal family, long clouded by the murder of Tsar Nicholas, improved last year when the queen dined with President Mikhail Gorbachev at Windsor Castle and accepted an invitation to visit the Soviet Union.

She is to be launching a major initiative in early February to promote grassroots solutions to arrest the pollution of the Alps, a source of fresh water and other vital resources for Europe.

Details of the initiative are to be announced by Prince Sadruddin during the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum at Davos. Essentially, they seek to provide closer contacts between businesses and community groups and sponsorship for short-term projects in the Alps. (Kuna)

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Soviet envoys allowed: The Soviet Union, in a striking display of Glastnost in Nato-member Norway, let two of its diplomats dance, drink vodka, crack jokes and discuss Moscow's reforms on a Norwegian television programme.

"Life as a Soviet diplomat has become more interesting," since President Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in 1985, said Soviet Ambassador Alexander Tretiuk on the live show on state television on Saturday night. (Reuters)

Society to defend Stalin: Admirers of former Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, now officially denounced by the Kremlin, have formed a society to defend his memory, according to a newspaper reaching Moscow on Sunday.

The Georgian youth newspaper Molodoyoz Gruzi, in its edition Dec 30, said the society held its founding congress in Stalin's home town of Gori on Dec 31, the 110th anniversary of his birth. (Reuters)

Latin America

Cuban grass-roots reforms: Cuba's Communist Party on Saturday announced significant changes in the running of its grass-roots organisations, calling for more participation by workers and more choice in the election of local leaders.

The party daily Granma said in a front-page article the changes were a continuation of the process of "rectification" introduced since 1986 by President Fidel Castro to improve the running and structure of Cuba's ruling Communist Party.

No mention was made in the article of the drastic political reforms affecting communist parties in Eastern Europe, where popular opposition has stripped the party of its monopoly on power.

But diplomats and political analysts said the changes by the Cuban Party appeared to reflect the determination of the party leadership that the same should not be allowed to happen in Cuba. (Reuters)

Ready to go

The US space shuttle Columbia is "ready to go" today but its satellite rescue mission could be delayed by bad weather, space agency officials said.

The Columbia is scheduled to lift off at 8:10 am (1310 GMT) on a 10-day mission to deploy a US Navy communications satellite and to retrieve a bus-sized canister of scientific experiments that has been in space since 1984.

Picture shows the crew of Columbia shuttle. (Reuters)

Secret laser gun on UK warship

Labour demands probe

journalist aboard the British frigate Coventry during Nato exercises in the Mediterranean last year.

British Ministry of Defence said it did not discuss operation details of military equipment and co-investigation was under way into how details of the weapon were uncovered.

Labour members of parliament said they would demand an inquiry from Defence

Secretary Tom King next week into both the apparent security leak and whether such weapons should be deployed.

"It's such a dangerous form of protection that when the Soviets were alleged to have this equipment several years ago, the Allied governments were completely unanimous in condemning the possibility of such a deployment," said Labour Defence Spokesman Martin O'Neill.

Bonn access to N-arms ruled out

PARIS, Jan 7, (Kuna): French Defence Minister, Jean-Pierre Chevénement, said today that France's nuclear deterrence was a key factor in the stabilisation of Europe and dismissed the idea that West Germans could have access to nuclear weapons.

In an interview with the latest edition of "Le Point" weekly magazine, Chevénement noted that the balance in Europe was based on the "invaluable nature of frontiers born from World War II".

Commenting on the recent political changes in the Eastern Bloc countries, and notably the fall of the Berlin Wall, the defence minister observed that only the frontier between the two Germanys could be wiped out.

"There are two things on which there is no going back in the interest of Europe. One is Germany as well, the Oder-Neisse frontier with Poland on the one hand, and on the other hand Germany's access to nuclear weapons," he said.

Talking about France's "Mistral" short-range nuclear missile, the minister indicated that that type of missile was at the service of Europe.

"It is not a field weapon, it is a not to be used weapon, a political weapon, corresponding to the concept of the ultimate warning which is aimed at making it possible for us to control eventual crisis," he added.

He ruled out the suggestion that the Germans were considering that missile as a threat saying that France's nuclear weapons play a "stabilising role" from the start.

The Central Committee also authorised the 1,637 congress delegates to choose a name for the new party, offering six suggestions like Polish Social Democratic Party, Polish Labour Party or Polish Workers Party.

Poles to dissolve Communist Party

Stripped of Marxism

WARSAW, Jan 7, (Reuters): The PUWP will be the second Communist Party to disband amid the changes that have swept away Eastern Europe's Stalinist rulers. Hungary's Communist Party dissolved itself in October.

Polishuro member Leszek Miller told the Central Committee a new leftist party was needed because the PUWP is not capable of meeting the challenges of modern times.

The PUWP crashed to humiliating defeat by Solidarity in parliamentary elections last June and lost power to a Solidarity-led government in September.

"The sources of the party's strength have run out and so have the possibilities of ever regaining the confidence of society," the draft programme said.

The draft was so controversial that the Central Committee forwarded it to the congress without debate.

Its denunciations of everying communism stood for raised expectations of splits between reformers and hardliners when it is debated at the congress, possibly leading to the formation of more than one new party.

needed to allow free elections in June and to debate whether it should put forward its own candidates.

The forum is currently the most powerful political group in the country after leading the protests which helped topple the communists. But spokesman Michael Zantovsky said it couldn't afford to be complacent.

"If the communists team up intelligently with the far-lefters they could make difficulties," he said today.

The forum organised round-table talks earlier in the week with the communists and other parties to help prepare laws governing the elections, free assembly and the formation of political parties.

Albania resists calls to change

VIENNA, Jan 7, (AP): The leaders of isolated Albania, Europe's last bastion of Stalinism, staunchly deny any intention of bowing to democratic reforms sweeping Eastern Europe.

But analysts believe that Communist Party chief Ramiz Alia will come under increasing pressure to change, both from abroad and inside the country, where cautious reforms increasingly conflict with the rigid communist society.

There were unconfirmed reports of unrest at Tirana University's spartan dormitories last summer. And Yugoslav media have mentioned anti-government protests in the cities of Shkodra and Korca last fall — reports denied by Albania.

Leaflets

Kiro Leka I, the pretender to Albania's throne who has lived in South Africa for the past 10 years, said in an interview published Friday that leaflets calling on Albanians to overthrow their hardline government will be dropped from balloons into the closed Balkan nation.

Albanian emigre groups in Europe, meanwhile, are said by the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug to have petitioned West European parliaments to help Albania win freedom.

Outwardly, Alia has shown no sign of yielding to such pressure. In a New Year's message to his people, he denounced what he called a foreign "campaign of slanders" to get Albania to follow the democratic trends in Eastern Europe.

The very reference to Eastern Europe, and the specific reference to campaigns abroad, may indicate, however, that Alia in fact faces question

INTERNATIONAL

Soviet Muslims cross border into Iran

NICOSIA, Jan 7. (AP): Three Soviet Muslims crossed into Iran's Azerbaijan province at the weekend and returned home after a day-long visit carrying souvenirs and copies of the Holy Quran, Islam's holy book, state-run Teheran radio reported today. The broadcast, said the Soviet Azerbaijanis crossed the Araks River which forms part of the Soviet-Iranian border and visited with Iranian Muslims in the village of Poldash yesterday.

It did not say if the men swam across the river or used boats.

Four Soviet youths cut barbed wire border fences on the Araks River and swam to the Iranian side a

week ago. A fifth companion drowned.

Rampaging protesters demanding unification of Soviet Azerbaijan with the adjacent northern Iranian province also populated by ethnic Azerbaijanis tried to break open the border in recent demonstrations.

Tass, the official Soviet news agency, said 7,500 protesters destroyed guard, observation towers, electronic alarm equipment and communications lines along the border in the unrest that began Dec. 31.

It said one person was killed in a clash among the protesters, but did not disclose a figure for the

injured or say when exactly the incident happened.

Border guards did not use their weapons and none was hurt despite threats against them, it added.

The seeds of the unrest were sown Dec. 4, when a crowd of Soviet Azerbaijanis gathered at the border and called through loudspeakers on their Iranian neighbours to unify their regions, the state-run Soviet newspaper Izvestia reported earlier.

The Iranian report on the latest Soviet visitors coincided with a report on Moscow radio that the Azerbaijani government has promised to allow more access to arable land on the banks of the Araks River and to take measures to make it easier to cross

the border into Iran.

Iran is making efforts to win love and affection of Soviet Azerbaijanis in light of disturbances facing that area recently.

A high ranking Iranian delegation headed by Assistant Foreign Minister Mahmoud Faidi left Teheran yesterday for talks with Iranian officials on facilitating travel of residents of Azerbaijan to Iranian cities.

The Irna news agency said Faidi will deliver a message from Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to his Soviet counterpart Edouard Shevardnadze cities. The Irna news agency said Faidi will deliver a message from Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to his Soviet counterpart Edouard Shevardnadze

dealing with issues of common concern.

Moscow may accept break

Gorbachev meets Lithuania chiefs

MOSCOW, Jan 7. (UPI): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and other politburo members ended two days of meetings with Lithuanian Communist Party leaders yesterday amid signs that Moscow may accept their defeat for independence.

In a possible positive influence on Gorbachev, Algirdas Brazauskas, the Lithuanian party chief who led the recent split from the national party, refused to deliver a speech on New Year's Eve speech on Lithuanian television after it broadcast a puppet show that made fun of Gorbachev, the Sovetskaya Kultura newspaper said.

Gorbachev was scheduled to lead a high-level delegation to Vilnius on Wednesday for what had been described as a three-day mission to persuade the recalcitrant Lithuanian communists to reverse their Dec. 20 decision to form the first independent republican party in Soviet history.

But the official Izvestia government newspaper quoted Rolandas Pavlenis and V. Kornienko, two of 11 Lithuanian communist leaders who met with Gorbachev and the other politburo members in Moscow, as saying after the talks that they believed the national party leaders had reconciled themselves to the unprecedented breaking of ranks.

"Pavlenis and Kornienko said absolutely clear terms: in their opinion, the leadership of the Soviet Communist Party's central committee is inclined to consider the decision (to split from Moscow) of the special 20th congress of the Lithuanian Communist Party as not contradicting the goals of perestroika," Izvestia said.

Gorbachev, who had warned that the splintering of the Communist Party could undermine his perestroika reform drive, said last month: "If we cross this line, then we can be said to be deliberately aiming to break up

the national party with a 90-minute tirade against Brazauskas and the other Lithuanian communist leaders, but the meeting was suspended Dec. 26 with the decision to send the high-level delegation to Vilnius. The plenum is scheduled to resume at the end of this month following the trip.

The Lithuanian party

approved the proposal to split from the national party with a 855-178 vote, and the delegates who opposed the break later chose their own central committee, giving the republic two chief policy-making bodies.

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approved the proposal to split from the national party with a 855-178 vote, and the delegates who opposed the break later chose their own central committee, giving the republic two chief policy-making bodies.

PIA jet has emergency landing

FRANKFURT, Jan 7. (Reuters): All 400 passengers and crew escaped unharmed when a Pakistani Jumbo jet with burst tyres made an emergency landing at Frankfurt airport today.

An airport spokesman said the Boeing 747 had taken off from Frankfurt for Karachi a couple of hours earlier. It turned back when the pilot noticed some of the tyres had burst.

The plane, owned by Pakistan International Airways, made a safe landing on a carpet of foam sprayed on the runway to prevent fire.

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Back to the world

Soviet army veteran 67-year-old Ivan Bushilo looks at his newly issued identity papers. Bushilo, who fled his home village because he feared reprisals for defending a war hero discredited by Stalin, emerged from 42 years of isolation in the Byelorussian forest. He sustained himself on berries and mushrooms and by trapping animals. Relatives bought him clothing and food from time to time. (Reuters wirephoto)

Is the world overheating?

Scientists puzzle

NEW DELHI, Jan 7. (Reuters): The "greenhouse effect" is likely to become the new decade's most important ecological issue but scientists are puzzled about whether the planet is overheating, and if so, what should be done to cool it off.

"Global warming is the number one contender for issue of the decade in energy and environment circles," said John Weyant of Stanford University at a conference of the International Association for Energy Economics that ended here yesterday.

Scientists have predicted that as the atmosphere warms and the polar ice caps melt, sea levels could rise to inundate vast coastal areas and forests would diminish.

"How much the planet is warming, what is causing it, and what should be done is a matter for hot debate.

"Global warming has become a theological question to which people are divided into believers or sceptics," said Loreo Cox of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Geological Laboratory in New York.

"The crisis could be less than anticipated," he said.

"There is a large degree of

Soviets vow to open Romanian border

Kremlin offers oil and gas in aid

BUCHAREST, Jan 7. (Agencies): Moving to improve Soviet-Romanian ties, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has pledged to open the border between the two countries and reaffirmed the Kremlin's offer to provide oil and gas to help Romania through the winter.

At the same time, Romania's interim leadership is taking steps toward greater democracy, announcing that it would adhere to an international human rights agreement and offering to give fledgling opposition parties access to the media before holding free elections.

Since Ceausescu was toppled in a popular revolt Dec. 22, and executed three days later, the new leadership has moved quickly to overturn decrees that greatly restricted Romanians' freedom and brought them considerable hardships, such as food rationing and shortages of heat and electricity in winter.

In a further move away from Ceausescu's tight rule, Romanian Foreign Minister Sergiu Celac issued a statement yesterday pledging to adhere to human rights commitments that Ceausescu's government had said it did not feel bound to honour.

Celac said Romania would abide by wide-ranging human rights accords adopted last January in Vienna by 35 nations attending the Conference on Security and Co-operation.

The accords promised greater freedom of religion, travel and emigration, a freer flow of information and the right of citizens in each country to form groups to monitor their government's human rights record.

The opening of the Soviet border will be of particular benefit to Soviet Moldavia, whose spoken language is identical to Romanian. Soviet Moldavia consists largely of territory annexed from Romania by Josef Stalin in 1940 under a secret protocol to the Hitler-Stalin pact which was recently declared invalid by the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies.

Moldavians have been calling for increased independence from Moscow, and Romania's revolution has led to speculation they could push for a form of reunification.

Asked about the possibility, Shevardnadze said existing European treaties back the territorial integrity of all the countries of Europe and their current borders.

Shevardnadze also invited Celac and Ion Iliescu, president of the National Salvation Front that is running the country until free elections, and Celac to visit Moscow.

"I would propose possibly we are in a warming trend due to natural causes," he said.

The world's oceans contain 50 times more carbon dioxide than the atmosphere and that may also affect global warming, he said.

Ashok Gadgil, of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory at the University of California, is apparently a believer.

Temperatures will rise three to five degrees with a doubling of carbon dioxide emissions over the next 50 to 70 years if nothing is done, Gadgil said. One solution would be a simple cookstove that burned other kinds of fuel.



A French lady smiles as she holds in her arms her two adopted Romanian children at Orly airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

GDR opposition threatens strike

Reforms demanded

LEIPZIG, East Germany, Jan 7. (Reuters): East Germany's highest opposition group New Forum threatened today to call a general strike if the ruling Communist Party did not loosen its grip on power.

New Forum voted at a Congress in Leipzig to hold nationwide demonstrations on January 15 demanding a more accountable government ahead of free elections due in May.

If there were no visible steps towards Communist Party reform, by January 20, the umbrella opposition group said it would call for all-out industrial action.

"We consider it important to keep a strike call as one of our options," congress chairman Heiko Litz said in a statement.

New Forum said it wanted the Communist Party to publish its financial accounts, give public access to investigations into corruption by the former leadership and prove it had fully disbanded the hated Stasi secret police.

Although the communists have expelled former party leader Erich Honecker and most of his Stalinist government toppled in a popular uprising last year, many opposition groups doubt the sincerity of the new leadership's commitment to reform.

New Forum is suspicious of government assurances that former members of the Stasi, officially dissolved in December, have no access to weapons. It fears the communists might build a similar security force to intimidate voters in the May 6 elections.

"Demands and warnings are no longer possible in this country," one regional delegate at the Congress said. "The sed (Communist Party) must be forced into changing."

Others were sceptical how effective a strike call would be. "People in the factories are not

Abandoned Romanian children fly to West

BUCHAREST, Jan 7. (Reuters): Abandoned Romanian children flew to new homes in the West at the weekend following the new government's end to a freeze on overseas adoptions.

Foreign embassies in Bucharest sorted through paperwork today as the last of the adopted children still stuck in Romania waited impatiently to join families abroad.

The French embassy said 64 Romanian children flew to France yesterday and one more was leaving today.

Twenty other children adopted by French couples were still in country orphanages but their departures were hampered by poor communications and transport problems on Romania's icy roads, a spokesman said.

The children, some orphans but many simply handed over to organizations by destitute parents, were originally adopted by childless Western couples.

After being accused by his countrymen of human trafficking, president Nicolae Ceausescu cracked down on adoption in 1988, lengthening bureaucratic procedures and making it impossible for the children to leave.

The National Salvation Front, which took over after Ceausescu was toppled on Dec. 22, has finally allowed the children to join their adoptive parents abroad.

The Italian embassy, which estimates that there are up to 150 children adopted by Italians in Romania, said 18 had already flown out.

A spokesman at the Belgian embassy said they were still arranging the paperwork for 10 adopted children but expected to be able to send them to Belgium very soon.

"It's simply a question of time. Things have gone well for the French and Italians and now we just need patience," the spokesman said.

Embassy officials said they expected to be swamped with new adoption requests from Western parents.

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VACANCY

Library Assistant

The British Council has an immediate vacancy for a part-time library assistant (24 hours per week). Fluent English essential. Library experience and some knowledge of Arabic preferred.

Application forms to be returned by 10 January 90 and more details from the British Council, 2 Al Arabi Street, Mansouriah.

India reaffirms its commitment to pullout of troops from Lanka

COLOMBO, Jan 7. (Kuma): At the request of Sri Lanka, the Indian government has agreed to re-examine its decision to withdraw the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) from Sri Lanka which it had earlier agreed to do by March 31, 1990, according to the joint communique released in Colombo today.

This is the outcome of a three-day meeting in New Delhi from 4th to 6th Jan 1990, between Sri Lankan official delegation headed by the island's Foreign Minister, Ranjan Wijeratne and his Indian counterpart I.K.

Gujral. The joint communique said "the External Affairs Minister (Gujral) re-affirmed government of India's commitment to complete the de-induction by 31.3.1990 as already stated in (Indian) parliament. In response to the Sri Lankan foreign minister's request that the process of de-induction be accelerated, the external affairs minister said that he would re-examine the possibility of doing so and would make his response known very early."

The communique further said "the Sri Lan-

kan side re-affirmed the commitment of their government to ensuring the safety and security of all communities in the north-eastern province and to expediting the implementation of the devolution package (meaning the devolution of powers to the provincial councils). The two sides agreed to undertake fighting to the north-eastern provinces, including the possibility of arranging a ceasefire."

The two countries also agreed to finalise the friendship treaty.



Nasser opens charity bazaar

THE Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmad Al Sabah yesterday opened the 12th Charity Bazaar organised by the Kuwait Society for the Disabled at its headquarters in Hawalli, in the presence of a number of government ministers and Jaha Governor Sheikh Ali Abdulla Al Salem Al Sabah in addition to a number of senior government officials and Arab and foreign diplomats in Kuwait.

Sheikh Nasser in his speech lauded the efforts made in organising the event and the love and care provided for the disabled by the society.

He expressed his admiration for the various objects on display at the bazaar, which included different traditional Kuwaiti furniture, antiquities, rugs, ornamen-

tal and other items.

The society had also set up a special branch for day-time out-station programme which hosted 77 children and due to increasing number of the disabled, the society is considering to set up a branch in Jaha's governorate.

UK pigeon crosses Saudi desert in 5.28 hrs

KUWAIT hosted a contest of relay pigeons to determine the speed of this early communications method, and a British pigeon managed to evade vultures and other hazards to cross the Saudi desert in five hours and twenty-eight minutes, the race organising committee said yesterday.

The fastest pigeon crossed the desert distance in five hours and twenty-eight minutes. The runner-up took one minute longer to make the crossing, and the third bird reached the end point sixteen minutes later.

The committee said dozens of pigeons flew a distance of some 300 miles (480 km) from the eastern Saudi Arabia city of Dammam, the starting point, to Kuwait.

The fastest pigeon crossed the desert distance in five hours and twenty-eight minutes. The runner-up took one minute longer to make the crossing, and the third bird reached the end point sixteen minutes later.

It was not immediately known how many pigeons had fallen victim to the dangers of the desert, such as birds of prey.

The owner of the first two winning pigeons, Badr Al Saffi, said he bought the pair in Britain for \$1,200, adding that he had received valuable prizes and certificates for his birds' victory.

The participants had earlier handed over their trained pigeons to the members of the contest-organising committee, which were fitted with secret numbers around their legs.

Finance Ministry's income tax code

SARA Ahmad Al Duwaisan, assistant undersecretary for general accounting affairs at the Ministry of Finance, has said that the ministry's planning committee had finalised a draft executive code on the proposed income taxation as also the executive code for government domain and referred them to the Department of Legal Advice and Legalisation.

She told a local daily that the committee is currently following the working and performance programme for various ministerial departments in the light of work requirements and the national financial policy based on the national development plan.

Efficiency

She pointed out that the committee's work is aimed at applying unified accounting and financial system at all government agencies starting July 1, 1990. The accounting and financial system proposed by the committee has already been implemented in three different ministries.

She said that the committee is concerned with evaluating the efficiency and performance of each ministry department, both of senior and supervisory personnel. The committee's efforts are directed to foster interaction and co-ordination within each department by way of promoting productivity and create an atmosphere of honest competition.

Integrated digital network system for overseas calls

THE director of technical planning at the Communications Ministry Adel Bo Ring has said that the ministry is planning to launch a small-scale experimental project to connect the integrated digital network system to its headquarters building for use in overseas calls.

He told a local daily that this would provide the chance for different agencies to appreciate the system's advantages at close quarters and get to know its different uses. The system will be used world-wide by 1996.

He added that committees at the International Telecommunications Union were studying steps to lay down international specifications to ensure the best possible application of this system and ensure optimum development of the local network and turn it into a modern digital system.

Education no longer once-in-a-lifetime affair

Open university — a new approach to learning

By Madhumala Sengupta

The following article may be useful to the readers who are looking for an opportunity to enhance their educational qualifications while being on job in Kuwait.

IN RECENT times, the open universities have made considerable inroads in the field of adult and continuing education, catering a new type of learning, viz, open learning. Its history can be traced back to the early days of postal tuition, which is still an integral component of it. However, open learning is much more than mere correspondence teaching. Today, it would be worthwhile to know something about open universities which are offering unconventional courses through an innovative method of teaching and learning.

True to its nomenclature, ideally, an open university is open to all. Unlike traditional universities, the age, previous qualification, sex, geographical barrier or distance do not dis-

qualify a student from being admitted in an open institution. However, a system of admission test for some courses has been introduced in some institutions to screen the suitable candidates. The term 'open' has another connotation. Usually the open university does not provide conventional classroom or for that matter academic campus like traditional universities. The idea is to let the students learn at their own place of choice. Thus it is possible for them to pursue a course even when they are residing in remote or otherwise inaccessible places, away from the parent institution. It is because of this reason, the open universities have come to be regarded as Distance Teaching Universities.

As a natural corollary to this feature, the student of an open university is required to study independently, apart from the physical presence of the teacher. Independent study and learner's autonomy are important features of distance education. Commensurating with this principle, the open universities arrange for face-to-

Legal Clinic

If you have a legal problem, labour or any other kind, send your questions to Arab Times, Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer Khaled Tamer replies to readers queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495.



ged my passport, will I still be eligible to do so?

I have five children, and I am worried about how I would be able to stay in Kuwait if I do not have the Kuwaiti nationality, and my husband isn't around to sponsor me. Also, according to my husband, our government house is registered in his name our children's name and mine.

The husband must write the wife's name in the nationality file, each Kuwaiti has one at the immigration, nationality and immigration and passports dept.

When a Kuwaiti marries, he must register the name of his wife to get a nationality for her, according to the rules. There is a new law that means that a foreign wife is entitled to get nationality after 15 years of marriage.

If your name has not been mentioned in your husband's nationality file, he must register as soon as possible.

She can get the passport now, and wait for the 15 years period to get Kuwaiti nationality. If you want to find out whether you're eligible or not, you can refer to your husband's nationality file. The matter depends on whether or not the wife's name was registered or not.

If you're name has been registered, then you can apply to the nationality dept, asking for it, according to the specifics mentioned in your husband's file.

As long as you have children, even minor, you can be sponsored by them to take care of the children.

IS it possible to transfer my residence from a catering company to a semi-government company? If yes, what are the formalities to be completed?

ACTUALLY, this depends on the agreement of both parties and the acceptance of such an application by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

If the semi-govt. gives you a letter of consent, and the catering company agrees to release, the papers will be submitted to the minister of social affairs for his approval.

In the case of application is rejected, then the semi-govt. company can issue a fresh visa; in the event of this happening, you'll have to cancel your present visa, leave the country and re-enter on the fresh work permit.

PHA plans 25,000 new housing units

NASER Al Roudhan, minister of state for housing affairs has stressed the deep concern of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and Chairman of the Higher Housing Council, Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla to reduce the waiting period for citizens to obtain government housing.

He added that the coming five-year-plan of the PHA for 90/95 includes the building of 25,000 housing units and said that expectations for housing service in the year 2000 will exceed 62,000 applicants.

He disclosed that an area of 250 to 300 square metres for government houses to be built consisting of three floors is considered to be the ideal situation in the future.

He added that the PHA spent about KD 1,500 million on housing projects, besides KD 1,000 million on land allotment. The supervisory staff of the authority have gained valuable experience from their involvement in the Dhabr Housing Project and all housing units built subsequently have been of a very high standard, Roudhan said.



Training course

Dr Abdul Rahman Al Mihallan, director-general of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training opened the DACUM training course for bank's cashiers at the Meridian Hotel.

About 23 employees from various local banks attended the opening ceremony of the four-day course organised by the professional development centre of the authority.



Madhumala Sengupta

open learning. But research data on open university are scant and that is why it is difficult to ascertain the veracity of these allegations. Inspite of the limitations the open universities are forging ahead; upholding the democratic principles in education, namely, widening access to higher education and life-long education. No matter how open universities are viewed today, there is no denying of the fact that they constitute a permanent structure within the existing system of education.

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Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Asim Yaqub yesterday held a reception at Sheraton Hotel to mark the 69th anniversary of the foundation of Iraqi Army.

Premier lauds Egypt's role

(Continued from Page 1)

Kuwait's Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Dhari Al Othman yesterday said that Kuwait will sign a judicial agreement with Egypt on transferring those sentenced to jail terms to their native homeland.

In a statement to Kuma, Al Othman said that the agreement will be concluded during the visit by HH the Crown Prince to Cairo.

The minister indicated that the agreement provides the opportunity for nationals of Kuwait and Egypt to spend their jail sentences in their native countries and near their families and friends.

He added that the accord also realises the goal of the punishment by rehabilitating the sentenced in their natural environment.

Al Othman affirmed that this agreement will further enhance the 1977 agreement on judicial and legal co-operation between the two countries.

Kuwait the target of Iranian missile attack and other hostilities during the Gulf war, has emerged as key potential customer for Egypt's military industry, the diplomats said.

Economic and military relations between Kuwait and Egypt received a strong push during the Iranian missile attacks on Kuwaiti vessels and coastal regions before the Iraq-Iran ceasefire went into effect on Aug 20, 1988.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak often stated that Egypt was under obligation to come to the aid of Kuwait and other Gulf Arab states against any Iranian threats.

Another cornerstone of Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations is the estimated 200,000 Egyptian expatriates working in Kuwait. They form the second largest foreign community in the country after the Palestinians.

The traditionally good links between the two countries received fresh momentum during a visit to Cairo last September by Kuwait's Amir and later by the Defence Minister, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

During his November visit, Nawaf extensively inspected sophisticated arms and military equipment produced by the Egyptian military industries and promised to consider their suitability for the needs of the Kuwaiti armed forces.

Meanwhile, Meguid met yesterday

with the Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait Saeed Refaat to prepare for Sheikh Saad's visit.

According to Radio Cairo, Abdel Meguid and Refaat discussed Kuwait-Egyptian relations and ways of consolidating them.

Sheikh Saad is due to meet with President Mubarak on Monday following his arrival.

It was announced that the talks will start on Tuesday headed by Sheikh Saad and Egyptian Premier Dr Atef Sedki.

It was also announced that Sheikh Saad will meet with the Arab ambassadors in Cairo on Wednesday and will hold a dinner banquet on Thursday for Kuwaiti students studying in Egypt.

Speaking on the Palestinian issue, he said, the Egyptian leadership moves in accordance with its national obligations and that the Palestinians are the only side responsible of their cause and Egypt cannot determine their future.

He disclosed that Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian President, will visit Egypt within the next few days for further consultations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt, Abdul Razzaq Al Kandari has emphasised that the wise policy followed by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak towards Arab and international issues is being appreciated by Kuwaiti officials, topped by His Highness the Amir and his Highness the Crown Prince and Premier.

Saudi News Agency said that Prince Sultan, during his visit to Iraq, met with King Hussein of Jordan and exchanged cordial talks.

KD 100 fine

A CATTLE ranch owner was fined KD100 for causing the death of a worker through negligence.

The court was told that a 30-year-old worker employed at the defendant's ranch was attacked and killed by a bull.

The court was further told that the victim has previously informed the owner to get rid of the animal claiming that it was extremely dangerous.

The ambassador further said that a delegation representing different official sectors in Kuwait and representatives of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development would accompany Sheikh Saad during his Cairo visit.

Meanwhile, Meguid met yesterday

Moves to get water from Iraq

ASSISTANT Undersecretary for Water Network affairs at the Ministry of Electricity and Water, Saad Abdul Aziz Al Naser announced that moves are under way to invite consultants for the implementation of the first stage of the agricultural water supply to Kuwait from Iraq project.

He said that the project will provide Kuwait with 200 million gallons of water daily.

The discussions with the Iraqi side will continue to complete the technical studies for the rest of the project stages, he said.

He disclosed that the average daily individual consumption of water in Kuwait amounts to 55 gallons which is considered high in comparison with water consumption rates in advanced countries.

Kuwait has 34.54 million cubic metres of consumable underground water, he told.

He pointed out that the Ministry of Electricity and Water did not yet discover any other new underground water resources.



Sheikh Hamad Ali Jabor Al Thani pictured with a model of an Emirates Airbus A310.

Emirates backs top Arab pilot in world's longest air race

DUBAI, Jan 7: Sheikh Hamad Ali Jabor Al Thani, the only Arab pilot to fly single-handed around the world, is to team up with Emirates to compete in the longest air race in aviation history.

Flying Dubai Victory, a Cessna 310 sponsored by the international airline of the UAE, the 30-year-old Qatari joins a big line-up of competitors in the Paris-Langkawi-Paris International Air Race next month.

Stamina test

Starting from Paris on Feb 5, the race follows a 25,000-km route which reaches its halfway point at Langkawi in Malaysia, after which there will be a five-day break for Asian Aerospace '90, Singapore's prestigious air show. The race is scheduled to

finish in Paris on Feb 28.

It will provide another severe test of stamina and concentration for Sheikh Hamad, whose round-the-world flight began from Daytona Beach in the USA on Dec 20, 1985, and ended triumphantly back in Florida 40 days later. On the way he set 16 world speed records over recognised courses.

Excited

"This will be the most demanding air race I have ever contested and I am extremely grateful for the support of Emirates," said the 30-year-old former airline pilot. "I am very excited."

Emirates chairman His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed Al Maktoum

said: "Sheikh Hamad is a highly-experienced pilot with many fine achievements to his credit in aviation. We are delighted to support his latest venture."

Aircraft

Sharing the flying with Sheikh Hamad, who has substantial race experience in the US, the Bahamas, Europe and Asia, will be Saudi Arabian co-pilot Mohammed Al Amri. The third member of the crew, British journalist Jim Gilchrist, will make regular reports on their progress.

While turbo-prop aircraft make up one race category, Dubai Victory — entered in the category for piston-driven engines — is in a class for non-pressurised aircraft. Like all Emirates aircraft, its tail will be decorated by the colours of the

UAE national flag.

The race, sponsored by the Tourist Development Corporation of Malaysia and Banque Indosuez, offers cash prizes worth \$80,000. Mandatory stops are at Bahrain and Dhaka on the outward journey and New Delhi, Dubai and Amman on the return leg. In between, the pilots will make a number of additional landings for re-fuelling, and these could hold the key to success.

"There are two other aircraft similar to mine in the race and I will need a one-minute edge over them," said Sheikh Hamad. "The re-fuelling stops are going to be so important. Speed will be essential and we are planning every stop very carefully."

Mahmud praises Kuwaiti stand

BANGLADESH'S Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud arrived yesterday on three-day official visit at the invitation of Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, who greeted him at the airport.

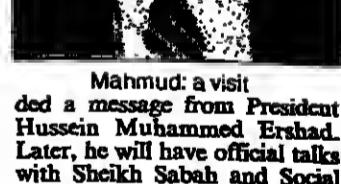
Upon arrival, Mahmud praised the relations between Kuwait and Bangladesh.

In an exclusive statement to Kuma, Mahmud recollects with much appreciation Kuwait's role in getting Bangladesh into the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in 1974 and help accorded by Kuwait at that time and afterwards.

He added that all Bangladeshis highly value Kuwait's stand towards their country and appreciate Kuwaiti aid to Bangladesh.

Mahmud's said that during his visit he will hold talks with Sheikh Sabah and other ministers, which will focus on direct Kuwaiti investments in Bangladesh and further strengthening of bilateral relations.

The Bangladesh foreign minister will have an audience with HH the Amir, who will be han-



Mahmud: a visit

ded a message from President Hussein Muhammed Ershad.

Later, he will have official talks with Sheikh Sabah and Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Khoraifi.

Mahmud will hold meetings with Minister of Defence Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed and Finance Minister Jassim Mohammed Al Khoraifi.

Besides Sheikh Sabah, Mahmud was received at the airport by Foreign Undersecretary Suleiman Majed Al Shaheen, head of the protocol department Ahmed Al Ayoubi, the ambassadors of the two countries and other ranking ministry officials.

Guinea meeting

CHAIMAN of Kuwait Chamber of Trade and Industry Abdul Aziz Hamad Al Saqer received at his office the Governor of Central Bank of Guinea Kiflala Yansami.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NEVER forget what a man says to you when he is angry —
H.W. Beecher, US clergyman (1813-1887).

OPINION

Amir displays great foresight

SHEIKH Jaber Al Ahmed's sayings are promises that find their way to implementation. What our Amir says he does.

In his sayings and deeds we do not find integrity only, but the meaning of the philosophy of change and adapting to the future with pragmatic responses to the inherent challenges.

This is the nature of Jaber Al Ahmed. He always looks to the future, calculates precisely and thus is always prepared for the days ahead and their expected developments. This is his style of tackling issues motivated by his great responsibilities towards the nation he leads.

On this basis, we cannot restrict our evaluation of the increase in employees' salaries as a moral or generous measure — though, both are characters of Sheikh Jaber. We evaluate it in terms of the promise he gave when he said: "Kuwait and all its activities are moving into the decade of the 90s."

This translates into all aspects of life — social, economic, political and others. Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed, by this well designed transfer is certainly advancing any future development.

If the talk now is on the big changes sweeping the world, including the popular revolts seeking freedom and participation in national activity, Sheikh Jaber's far-sightedness and his measures to provide the requirements for the future based upon accurate calculations and predictions has certainly surpassed and advanced those developments and events.

Having been fortunate in having such a socio-political leadership, we can be confident of our present and future. We can be proud that we are pioneers in the developing human aspects, pioneers in firmly believing in freedom and democracy.

The councils of democracy are open since a long time and there are no closed doors between the big and small and no opinion is prevented from reaching the officials and no voices are suppressed while saying that is right and all calls for serving the homeland are welcome.

We understand the recent Amir grant — which is not the last in preparing the country for the decade of the 90s. It is but another step for building Kuwait and its society and consolidating its construction and that of the whole society by putting it firmly on the road to a bright and prosperous future.

We firmly believe in Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed's promise of a new life in this last decade of this century — in all aspects economic, social and political.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Iliescu capable of ending despair

IASI, Romania, (AP): To residents of this city on the Soviet border, Romania's new leader is nothing less than a superman capable of ending their country's quarter-century of despair.

Ion Iliescu was already being demoted because of disputes over Nicolae Ceausescu's policies when he was sent to Iasi to be Communist Party chief in 1974-1976.

But 13 years after he was further demoted from that job, he emerged as leader of the revolution that toppled and executed Ceausescu. Through a filter of suffering and revolution, the people of Iasi see in Iliescu not only a talented economist, but a man who cares about people and culture.

"He was the only local party secretary who didn't treat Ceausescu like a king," said Adi Cristi, a poet and member of the National Salvation Front Committee that now runs the city of 300,000 people from the former Communist Party headquarters.

Liberty

I think Iliescu will restore liberty and the possibility to say anything you think," said Pavel Zaharia, who waited on Iliescu's table 15 years ago and now manages the Moldova Hotel across the street from party headquarters.

There is praise as well from those on the Soviet side of the border who worked with Iliescu.

Mikhail Platov, a deputy premier of the Soviet Republic of Moldavia across the Prut River, was a local party official in the border region when Iliescu was in charge in Iasi.

Amoog Soviets, Platov said in an interview, Iliescu had a reputation as "an energetic, business-like, thoughtful and progressive person."

As a hydrologist, he concentrated on land improvements in an area where a lack of rainfall inhibits otherwise favourable growing conditions, Platov said.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1499 — France's King Louis XII marries Anne, Duchess of Brittany.

1598 — Joachim Frederick succeeds as elector of Brandenburg on death of John George.

1679 — French explorer La Salle reaches Niagara Falls.

1806 — Britain finally occupies Cape of Good Hope.

1815 — Battle of New Orleans, in which Americans defeat British within half an hour in final engagement of war of 1812.

1915 — Heavy fighting breaks out in areas of Asse Canal in Belgium and Soissons, France, in World War I.

1923 — France begins military occupation of Ruhr valley in Germany.

1926 — Ibn Saud becomes King of Hejaz on King Hussein's expulsion and changes name of kingdom to Saudi Arabia.

1953 — Riots break out in Karachi, Pakistan.

1954 — Commonwealth finance ministers open meeting at Sydney, Australia.

1958 — Soviet Marshal Bulganin again proposes summit conference on world problems.

1963 — Outer Mongolia defies China and gives unqualified support to Soviet Union in ideological dispute dividing the two communist nations.

1972 — Bangladeshi leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman arrives in London after being released by Pakistan, and he appeals for recognition of his new nation.

1974 — Communist-led insurgents in Cambodia intensify pressure on Phnom Penh with strikes north and south of the capital.

1989 — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev says Kremlin is besieged by financial problems that are sapping his reforms.

Art Buchwald

Moles are no longer needed

THE old men from the intelligence agencies drifted in to the Cafe Mozart in East Berlin. They were all there — Smiley from MI-5, Rostov from the KGB, Fouquet from the French Surete, and Woodhouse from the CIA, among others.

Smiley ordered a cup of tea. "Does anyone know who'd like to buy the plans for the Warsaw Pact defence of the northern corridor?" he asked.

"Forget it, Smiley," Rostov told him. "There's no market for defence secrets any more. The Cold War is over and Moscow is giving away Warsaw Pact plans, out huying them."

Woodhouse said, "I know a Czech mole in Margaret Thatcher's cabinet if anyone is interested."

Smiley shook his head. "No one cares about moles in London. They're a dime a dozen, and what damage can they do now? Let's face it, men, we are no longer essential. The cloak and dagger days are over."

"That's the way it is whenever the Cold War melts down. As soon as the war starts, it's Ivan and this Ivan that, but when the killing stops, they tell you to shove your stolen blueprints in your shoes and go home," Rostov said.

An East German Secret Service man named Kraut joined in the conversation. "I was in the department for 30 years. I caught more traitors trying to climb over the Berlin Wall than any other government official. Now I am going to lose my pension because there is no wall. I ask you, gentlemen, is that fair?"

"Oh, shut up, Kraut," yelled Fouquet. "You were a butcher not a spy."

"What's the difference?" Kraut wanted to know.

Smiley said, "It's too late to cry over spilt milk. We're all in the prime of our careers. Surely someone has a use for us in these terrible times of perestroika and glasnost."

Woodhouse answered, "I doubt it. Every country that has declared independence wants to trade military secrets for bread and cheese. I was offered the complete plans for a brand-new Soviet submarine the other day, and Washington wouldn't let me buy them. Apparently the CIA had used up its entire espionage budget on tickets to the Moscow Ballet."

Fouquet added, "The worst aspect of all this is that beautiful foreign women are no longer attracted to us."

"I noticed that," Rostov said. "Women used to find us glamorous, but now they're much more taken with Eastern bloc economists."

Woodhouse began to reminisce, "I had a girl in Leipzig, and I told her that I'd come back for her when I rescued her boyfriend, East Germany's greatest mathematician. I heard from her the other day. She and the mathematician are going to open an H&R Block office in Leipzig. She was sorry but they didn't need me, I'm afraid."

Smiley was sucking on the lemon from his tea. "There is no reason to go home. If I tell people that I was a spy for MI-5, they just laugh at me and say, 'That was dumb!'"

"It's the same with the Americans," Woodhouse said. "Nobody wants a Cold War warrior when the saber-rattling has stopped. I think I'll stay in East Berlin and operate a radar trap for people driving over 55 miles an hour on the auto-bahn."

Fouquet concluded, "There's just not much for me to do. Maybe I could work for an Eastern bloc credit company. If there's going to be peace, there has to be credit card fraud."

Smiley was called to the phone. He came back, white-faced. "It was John le Carré. He told me that he was going to drop me from his next book. Spies who come in from the cold aren't selling anymore."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Quote me

"Let us not look back to a troubled past but rather let us responsibly face the future. Together let Panamanians and Americans build our relations on a basis of mutual respect and enduring friendship. Hintoo said on his arrival. In conclusion, let me stress that Panamanians and Americans must henceforth co-operate to prepare for the day less than ten years away for (Panamanian) operation of the Panama Canal." — New US ambassador to Panama.

"I want to tell you: I'm not No. 1 or No. 2. Noriega is not my partner. I have not been in charge of his business affairs, I have not been in charge or instructed his forces, I have not organised his personal security. I'm just a private man who deals in trade." — Mike Harari alleged Noriega's security adviser.

"The pace of change in East Europe, the expectations of the peoples concerned and of their governments as well as the community's own interests in the political and economic future of Europe now require the community to take further initiatives." — The EEC on the need to aid East Europe.

"I was not hiding and was not imprisoned by the Americans on any occasion. I was in Panama when the war started and I avoided it without any help, by my own means, and as you can see I'm here, in my country, at home, among my family and friends." — Mike Harari on his alleged capture during the US invasion of Panama.

"There is no place for capitalism, which is dictatorship based on exploitation of basic human rights which are completely crushed in Western Europe and the United States. If you (Eastern Europe) transfer (adopt) Western European system with its multi-parties and capitalism, I warn you of unemployment and beggars, of inflation, crises and in the end, war." — Col Muammar Khaddafi on development in E Europe.

"We are not interested in the European siege. The companies working here need Libyan money, they need Libyan oil. We put our conditions, not they, if they don't like them, they can go to hell." — Col Khaddafi on Western economic sanctions against Libya.

"If the TV cameras had been more objective they would have filmed the many toys and bags of food we kept in the garage that were going to the needy." — Noriega's wife to a newspaper.

German unity and the unity of Europe must be striven for together. Germany is our fatherland, Europe our future." — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to Germans.

"For this, as a man who opposed the Ceausescu regime, I think that the unity of Romanians is the only guarantee of a free Romania." — Mircea Racanu proposing unity as the only way for Romanians.



President George Bush: fending off charges of timidity

US military operation in Panama a success

'Bush's 'wimp' image destroyed

Noriega now fights legal war

WASHINGTON, (AP): President George Bush, who a few months back was fending off charges of timidity, is reaping foreign policy and political gains at home from the success of the US military operation in Panama.

"Bush just knocked one out of the park," one political analyst said. "The 'W' (wimp) word will not be heard again," said another.

The US intervention in Panama and subsequent surrender of dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega to US forces is allowing Bush to bask in praise from leaders of both parties — something rare for a president a full year into his term.

Bush's gamble may have left him in the strongest position yet since he took office as he awaits the return of Congress on Jan 23 with his popularity soaring in public opinion polls.

And, while analysts and political leaders differed on the long-range payoff, few disputed the short-term value to Bush and his Republican Party — particularly in this congressional election year.

"The president goes into this session of Congress with enormous credibility, whether on defense spending or domestic policy," said Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas.

And no harsher a critic than Sen Edward Kennedy proclaimed the surrender of Noriega a triumph for diplomacy and a triumph for justice."

At a news conference on Friday, Bush dismissed an assertion by Lee Atwater, chairman of the Republican National Committee, that the Panamanian venture was a "political jackpot."

"A president's called on to take certain actions. We're not going in to try to furbish a political image; that's ridiculous," Bush said.

But Leslie Goodman, a spokeswoman for the party committee, said Atwater's "basic point was that anytime an American president does what he says he's going to do, the public approves wildly. That's what happened with Panama. And that's the political jackpot."

Most analysts seemed to agree.

"...In international terms, he reminded the rest of the world that they can't take him for granted," said Stephen Hess, a political analyst who specializes in the presidency at the Brookings Institution, a generally Liberal Research Organization.

Mitch Daniels, political director under former President Ronald Reagan and now a scholar at the conservative Hudson Institute, said Bush's success in bringing Noriega to justice "can't be overstated."

"There are defining events that tend to be remembered after the event itself has been forgotten. This was clearly a complex operation and the president clearly was personally directing events. And it worked," Daniels said.

Although Bush has oft been called a "wimp" since early on in his presidential campaign, Democratic critics, including Senate leader George Mitchell, were accusing him of timidity in foreign policy as recently as a few months ago.

Bush was attacked for failing to stand up to the Chinese government in the aftermath of the bloody Tiananmen Square crackdown; for reacting too slowly in promising aid for Poland and other emerging new democracies of Eastern Europe; and for failing to seize the moment during an abortive coup attempt against Noriega last October.

The former strongman "due process of law" is going to prove a long, hard process, especially when it comes to convincing the government to release classified documents about his dealing as an asset of the Central Intelligence Agency at \$200,000 a year.

Oddly enough, many experts say the government should have no problem with the argument that Noriega was kidnapped.

"Under US law, even if you kidnap someone, as long as it is physically before the court, you can try him," said Sam Dash, counsel to the Senate Watergate hearings. "The position is: We don't care how he got there. I'm sure the defense will appeal but they'll lose all the way to the Supreme Court."

But the government may have a problem using the evidence it found against Noriega in his headquarters, including his records and stash of cocaine, because of the constitution's prohibitions against illegal searches, says Colleen O'Connor, spokeswoman for the American Civil Liberties Union.

The government may also have trouble with their witnesses against Noriega — drug dealers who are testifying against him in the hopes of securing better deals for themselves.

One legal expert, Paul Kahn of Yale University, said that given all the problems in the case, he would not be surprised if the US government made a deal with Noriega.

Another expert, who asked not to be identified, said, "the US may rue the day when it brought this case."

William Kunstler, the dean of America's "radical" attorneys, goes a step further. He also says that giving

"Over the long run, in retrospect, it would have been much better to have intervened in that indigenous coup, rather than to handle it this way," said Norman Ornstein of the conservative American Enterprise Institute.

"We would have been a better nation rather than initiating and carrying out," Ornstein said. "And we would have been less responsible for Panama. Now, Panamanians are going to look with some justification to us to bail them out."

Many opposition groups see the massive media attention given to a few hazily investigated incidents as a Communist Party ploy to spread fear of communism and as an excuse to revive the Stasi secret police which propped up the Honecker regime.

Henrich and his group New Forum are suspicious of government assurances that the old secret police has no access to weapons. They fear the communists might set up a similar security force to intimidate voters in the May 6 elections.

Weiss of democracy now is worried not only by a resurgence of the Stasi but also by old hardliners who he said still hold several posts high in government, the media and industry.

"I don't think the new leaders such as (party chief Gregor) Gysi are responsible for the neo-Nazi scare tactics. It is the old apparatus which still controls the middle ranks," he said.

Weiss and others believe it is vital to push the communists into opposition in the elections if East Germany is to become a democracy.

"I think the party can really change and that it is in the interests of the country for it to do so. But this is only possible if it is no longer in government," Weiss said.

East German author Lutz Rathenow said any economic rapprochement between West Germany and a communist-led East Germany would make corruption endemic to the political system.

"We would become the Sicily of a united Germany. And the party would play the role

Lebanese to face acute hardship

Middle class disappeared; rich stay very rich

BEIRUT, Jan 7. (Reuter): In the nightclubs and chic restaurants of Kaslik, you'd never know there was a war on.

After 14 years of civil strife in Lebanon, a surprising number of people in the country's Christian enclave still find the money to enjoy a night out in style.

But glossy magazines advertising watches, jewellery or scotch whisky cater for the conspicuous consumption of a minority. The majority will face a new year of increasing deprivation or acute hardship, charity workers say.

"Before, there was a large middle class," said Maurice Abu Jaoudah, a voluntary worker at the Catholic Centre for Information.

Jordanian soldier killed by Israelis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 7. (Reuter): Israeli troops today shot dead an armed Jordanian soldier after several days of sniper fire at the border, the army said.

It said the soldier, armed with an M-16 automatic rifle, was inside Israel.

In a statement, the army said troops searching the frontier along the Yarmouk river separating Israel and Jordan found the soldier near Hamat Gader, beyond the Israeli border fence but on Israeli territory.

"An Israeli Army force detected a Jordanian soldier inside Israeli territory. He was shot and killed. There were no injuries to our forces," the statement said.

Israel reported four incidents last week along the normally-quiet border with Jordan, two of them shooting incidents near the border, tourist site of Hamat Gader on Thursday and Friday.

"The Israeli Army took several actions to detect where the shots were coming from and during them the Jordanian soldier was detected and shot," the army said.

Sudan raps Garang visit to Israel

KHARTOUM, Jan 7. (Kuna): A reported visit to Israel by Sudanese rebel leader John Garang has been described as something not strange but one that comes in the context of conspiracies against the Sudan, the Sudan news agency, Suna, reported today.

The agency quoted a source it described as (informed) as saying that neither the Sudanese people nor the world opinion could be deceived by desperate attempts by Col. Garang to improve his image.

The reported visit is part of a conspiracy aimed at distorting an international image the Sudan has earned after the national salvation revolution, the source said.

The rebel leader, by seeking close relations with Israel, aims, in the short range, at undermining and tarnishing the national dialogue conference resolutions and aims, in the long range, at building a Zionist belt against Arabism and Islam in Africa rendering the continent a prey to racism and Zionism, the source added.

The source wonders whether some elements from northern Sudan, who the source says have accepted to be cat's paws for Garang's ambitions against their country and their faith, have visited Israel along with Garang or have failed to do so and thus opted to assume a low grade in the rebel leadership. The source was obviously referring to Dr Mansour Khalid, a notable north Sudanese politician-thinker.

Lift sanctions against Libya, League asks US

TUNIS, Jan 7. (UPI): The Arab League called on the United States yesterday to lift sanctions against Libyan leader Col Moammar Khaddafi's government and said the restrictions were damaging Arab-American relations.

The United States' perpetuation of the sanctions "is all the more regrettable because efforts are under way to substitute an era of peace and security for the tensions known in the Middle East," said a spokesman for the Tunis-based organisation.

Washington introduced sanctions against Libya Jan 7, 1987 in retaliation for alleged Libyan support for terrorism.

The Arab League spokesman said they represent "an obstacle" to the development of US-Arab relations and urged they be lifted.

"That class has almost disappeared, by emigration or by joining the ranks of the poor. The very rich stayed very rich."

Abu Jaoudah and Father Antoine Gemayel, director of the centre which coordinates church charity work, say the lifestyle of an affluent few is misleading.

An acute economic crisis exacerbated by the war has caused the average Lebanese on both sides of the Green Line dividing Beirut severe hardship, they say.

The minimum wage has just been raised to 35,000 Lebanese pounds (\$67) a month. An average unskilled worker can expect to earn around 55,000 pounds (\$105).

All government schools in Christian East Beirut are full and a place at a private

school costs around \$400 a year, Father Gemayel says. Many schools were hit in the six-month artillery war last year, reducing places still further.

The Roman Catholic charity Caritas, which operates throughout Lebanon, and other charities, help with fees. Parents also make great sacrifices to educate their children.

"They sell land, they do the impossible, to send their kids to school," Father Gemayel said.

Hospital care can also bankrupt a family. Every hospital in the Christian enclave and most in Muslim West Beirut were hit in the shelling.

East Beirut has three free hospitals but

those forced to use private wards can expect to pay \$150 a day without surgery, Father Gemayel says.

Some half a million people have fled to the Christian enclave from other areas during the war, putting acute pressure on housing. Many have ended up in Nahr al-Bared, a sprawling district of crumbling shell-rocked apartments and potholed roads next to the Beirut river.

Many refugees were agricultural workers without employment skills suitable for city life. Some 60 per cent of all Lebanon's factories were in any case damaged in the shelling war and Father Gemayel estimates unemployment at 22 per cent.



Four Christian protesters ran some 17 km to the residence of Papal Nuncio Pablo Puent and delivered a message to Pope John Paul asking for his help to release Lebanese held in Syria and foreigners kidnapped in Lebanon. At least 8,000 people also formed a human chain to Puent's residence in East Beirut to protest against Syria's presence in Lebanon. (Reuter wirephoto)

Egypt commends Iraqi peace move

'United Arab stance' sought

CAIRO, Jan 7. (AP): Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid today commended Iraq's proposal for reviving stalled peace talks with Iran and called on Arab leaders to form a "United Arab stance" against the Persian state's refusal of the plan.

Abdel-Meguid told reporters that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's offer reflected his country's wish for a peaceful end to the Iran-Iraq conflict. His comments were carried by the Middle East news agency.

The peace initiative that President Saddam Hussein has announced reflects Iraq's peaceful attitude and its concern to establish a comprehensive peace," Abdel-Meguid said.

"The initiative that President Saddam Hussein has announced reflects Iraq's peaceful attitude and its concern to establish a comprehensive peace," Abdel-Meguid said.

"The initiative is a step which deserves commitment from all sides and we call on Iran to accept it. And Arab leaders should study the Iranian position in the case of its rejection of the initiative to create a United Arab stance against it," Abdel-Meguid added.

The Egyptian foreign minister did not specify what actions Arab leaders should take against the Iranian rejection.

Abdel-Meguid later told Kuwaiti journalists that Egypt was disappointed at Iran's rejection of Saddam's plan.

"The Iranian response came as a disappointment and Iran is held responsible for this rejection," he said.

Iran has dismissed as a "campaign of public deception" Iraq's proposal for a direct dialogue between the two countries leaders to be held alternatively in Baghdad and Tehran under supervision of the United

Nations.

On the developments in eastern Europe, Abdel-Meguid told Kuwaiti journalists that the situation called for an Arab summit to improve co-operation between Arab countries.

"The developments in Europe show that the tendency is toward dialogue and not conflict... all parties in the Middle East must understand the necessity to move toward peace," Abdel-Meguid said.

He said a meeting between the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the United States, which had been expected in January, needs preparations which are underway.

"There are contacts going on to pave the way for the meeting between the three foreign ministers. It is premature to set a date for it because it has to be carefully prepared for to ensure its success. We do not want to go to a failure," Abdel-Meguid said.



PLO leader Arafat (left) presents a certificate of honorary Palestinian citizenship to Italian peace activist Marisa Menno. Marisa was blinded in one eye during a peace march in Jerusalem.

Fears of civil war renewed

Shiite fighting PLO deploys more forces

SIDON, Lebanon, Jan 7. (UPI): The Palestine Liberation Organisation has increased its "peace-keeping" forces in southern Lebanon to more than 700 members, but rival Shiite Muslim factions clashed there for a 16th consecutive day today, security sources said.

About 300 PLO commandos were deployed from bases around the port city of Sidon, 24 miles south of Beirut, to the region of Tufah further east of Sidon Thursday and another 100 were dispatched into the embattled area over the weekend, the sources said.

The Palestinian force is entrusted with a peace-keeping role by acting as a buffer between the rival Shiite groups, the Iranian-funded Hezbollah, and the pro-Syrian Amal.

Amal and Hezbollah are contesting for the leadership of Lebanon's estimated 1.5 million Shiites.

Hezbollah advocates an open-ended armed struggle against Israel across southern Lebanon, while Amal wants Israel to relinquish a frontier "sacred enclave."

Local PLO officials have said the reinforcement of the peace-keeping force was designed to dislodge the antagonist Lebanese groups, but pro-Syrian Muslim leaders have accused PLO leader Yasser Arafat of plotting to widen the PLO presence in southern Lebanon.

Witnesses said Amal's fighters, armed with automatic guns, rocket launchers and mortars, were manning fortifications and roadblocks in

the 45-minute flare-ups along Beirut's three-mile (five-kilometres) demarcation line jolted residents of the low-income districts of Sodeco and Ras Al Nabaa out of bed at dawn.

Thousands scurried to basements and bomb shelters as the thunderous blasts of mortar and artillery shells echoed across the city.

Muslim militias entrenched in Ras Al Nabaa accused soldiers of rebellious Christian army officer, Gen. Michel Aoun, of starting the clash.

Green Line fighting yesterday killed two Christian civilians.

Uprising: two die, travel ban on 9

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 7. (AP): Two 18-year-old Palestinians died today of gunshot wounds after clashes with soldiers, and Israeli authorities banned nine pro-PLO activists from travelling abroad.

Palestinian leaders charged the three-month travel ban imposed by Interior Minister Aryeh Deri were an attempt to disrupt US-backed efforts to arrange a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo.

Those targeted included Sari Nusseibeh and Faisal Husseini, the two most prominent Palestinians involved in behind-the-scenes diplomatic efforts.

Israeli authorities were trying to nominate their own Palestinian representatives for the proposed talks and block any role for the PLO.

"Israel is trying to go back to its old policies, and they are discovering day after day that such actions will not succeed in creating a new local leadership," he said in an interview today.

Also ordered to stay in the country were Nabil's businessman Saeed Kanaan, women's activist Zashira Kanaan and a delegation of five Palestinian trade union leaders who were to attend a conference in Egypt, Palestinian sources said.

Nusseibeh was reportedly turned back at the Allenby bridge while en route to Jordan and others had planned trips to Egypt, which has been consulting Palestinians about a list of 10 negotiators to meet with Israel.

Ms Kamal, who had planned to attend conferences in Cairo and Boston, Massachusetts, said she believed Israel was trying to "exercise a veto" over participants in the proposed Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

The English-language Jerusalem Post and Hebrew Maariv dailies said the travel ban appeared aimed at disrupting contacts between local Palestinian leaders and Yasser Arafat's PLO in Tunis.

In the West Bank town of Bethlehem, meanwhile, about 2,000 people attended the funeral of Fadi Zahalki in the Church of the Nativity.

The government appointed Communication Minister Gad Ya'acobi to Israel's decision-making inner cabinet today to replace Ezer Weizman who resigned after he was accused of talking with the PLO.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn arrived in Israel today seeking stronger economic ties, ending a 22-year gap in high-level visits from East European countries.

Arafat, Khaddafi talks: Palestinian President Yasser Arafat held a second round of talks with his Libyan host, Col. Moammar Khaddafi.

Arafat, who arrived in Tripoli last night, held his first round of talks with Khaddafi shortly after arrival. (Kuna)

North Yemen denies: North Yemen denied Sunday reports by an Israeli newspaper that it would consider allowing Israelis of Yemenite origin to visit relatives in their homeland.

"North Yemen's policy does not allow anyone with Israeli or South African passports to visit Yemen. It also refuses entry to passport holders with Israeli or South African visas," Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani told Reuters. (Reuters)

Libya-Chad summit: A Libyan-Chadian summit will soon take place in the Gabonese capital between Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi and Chad's President Hissene Habre, press reports said in Dubai Sunday.

"Al Bayan" newspaper said in a Paris-dated story that the two leaders would try during the summit to iron out differences between their countries on the one hand and between them personally on the other. (Kuna)

250 troops killed: Sudanese rebels claimed Saturday that they killed 250 government troops during six days of fighting in which they were successful in dispersing an army brigade of more than 3,000 soldiers.

The Rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army said in a radio broadcast that their troops had followed fleeing government soldiers to the Ugandan border, but had stopped there "out of respect for the international border." (AP)

US urging Israel: The US is urging Israel to show flexibility during the forthcoming American-Egyptian-Israeli foreign ministers meeting in Washington later this month to set the stage for the proposed Palestinian-Israeli talks as stipulated by Secretary of State James Baker's Middle East peace plan, Radio Israel reported Sunday.

The radio, monitored in Kuwait, quoted its Washington correspondent as saying that the "Americans are said to be looking for additional flexibility from Foreign Minister Moshe Arens when he goes to Washington for talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid and US Secretary of State James Baker" later this month. (Kuna)

Azeri, Turkish co-operation: Foreign Minister Memet Yilmaz said Saturday that prospects were bright for increased co-operation between Turkey and the Soviet republic of Azerbaijan.

Yilmaz made the statement at a luncheon he gave in honour of visiting Azerbaijani Premier Ayaz Mazyazoglu Mutallibov. It was carried by the state radio. (AP)

Fahd sends cable: King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia sent a cable of condolence Saturday to Pakistan's President Chaudhry Isqure Khan at the death and funeral of a number of Pakistanis in a collision of two trucks in Sialkot, south of Pakistan.

In the cable, reported by Radio Riyadh, King Fahd expressed grief over the train accident, which claimed the lives of some 300 people and injured scores others. (Kuna)

Cairo offers to host: Cairo has offered to host a reconciliation meeting between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation amid signs that the two sides were preparing to end more than six years of bitter dispute, Al Ittihad newspaper reported Sunday.

The paper, quoting diplomatic sources in Cairo, said Egypt received assurances from Syria that Damascus was prepared to support any action that would strengthen the Palestinian struggle for freedom and fill the gaps among Arab. (Kuna)

Afghans detained: Pakistani police have arrested four Afghans for allegedly firing rockets on the southwestern town of Quetta that injured three policemen, a senior government official said.

Baluchistan province Chief Minister Akbar Khan Bugti told reporters on Saturday night that the group's leader, Haji Mohammad, was a commander of the Pakistani-based Afghan rebel party Jamiat-i-Islami.

He said preliminary investigations revealed Haji Mohammad also worked for the secret police of the Soviet-backed Afghan government and Pakistani intelligence. (Reuters)

Horn in Israel

Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn (right) and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens hold a brief discussion at Ben Gurion airport. (Reuter wirephoto)

Arab authority for military industrialization seeks support

CAIRO, Jan 7. (Kuna): The Cairo-based Arab Authority for Military Industrialization is hopeful to build up the infrastructure and advanced technology necessary to manufacture any military product requested by any Arab state, its director-general Dr Mohamed Nour Yousef said yesterday.

Speaking exclusively to Kuna here, the official assured that the authority does not face any financial deficit as the Egyptian defence ministry purchased the entire authority's output.

Founded in 1975 by Egypt, Saudi Arabia,

the UAE and Qatar, the authority started

with a capital of \$1.04 billion to manufacture

advanced industrial items, including planes and their engines, missiles, air-borne electronic equipment, personnel carriers and armoured vehicles.

However, the three Arab Gulf co-founding states suspended their membership in the authority when Egypt signed the Camp David agreement with Israel in 1979.

Dr Yousef explained that suspension of the three countries' membership did not result in financial deficit as the Egyptian defence ministry purchased the entire authority's output.

But, the official indicated that resumption of the three countries' membership will surely

push forward the organised since the three will expand the area for marketing the authority's products, thereby activating and promoting its capital.

He praised the standard of military hardware produced by the authority, saying it is equal to that produced by Western firms and appealed to Arab states to shop for arms from the authority's nine different plants.

Dr Yousef added the authority have the necessary equipment to overhaul plane engines and called upon Arab states to do their maintenance work with the authority at a lower cost than charged



Chandomama'—typical song on the moon



Skit written by Ravi Gayankar.

Maharashtra Mandal

MAHARASHTRA Mandal celebrated their annual day with a cultural programme at the Indian Embassy Auditorium.

The main events of the programme included dance dramas, by children from Salmiyah and Fahheel, "Dandiya Ras" by teenage girls, an one act skit in Marathi which depicted a typical working committee meeting proceedings of a house.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbols has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration maybe made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

Photography and Oil painting classes

OIL painting classes beginning 15 January. Photography classes beginning 16 and 17 January. 8 week course, once a week 4:30 to 7:30 pm. For further details please call Ann Eid Tel: 2426135 or Yasmeen 5326833.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints

THE Sultan Gallery will be holding a Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition starting Saturday Dec 23 until Jan 15. On Saturday, the Gallery will be open from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Else, it will be open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

Hobby centre

A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making — For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

SOCIAL

STEPS Ballet School commences its new term Jan 1990 registration is now open Sat-Wed in the Kuwait English School, Salwa from 3-7 pm. Call 5386481 between 9-12 noon for more information. (For girls only 4-15 years).



Goodbye to 1989

Last week, the French School held a social programme to celebrate the end of 1989. The programme included a variety of songs, a short play and prize giving to outstanding students. Dr Yacoub Al Sharrah, the Assistant Undersecretary of Private Education at the Ministry of Education was the guest of honour.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

- 9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al Kher News and Variety
- 9.50 Cartoon Serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Toyour Billa Ajneh! Arabic Serial (part 5)
- 11.45 Sabah Al Kher News and Variety
- 12.15 Al Maqouf: Local Weekly Serial (part 1), starring Abdul Hussain Abdul Redha, Mohammed Jaber and Abdullah Khairbit
- 12.30 News Summary
- 12.35 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING PERIOD

- 4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 4.45 Bereen: Cartoon serial
- 5.15 Mama Anisa and the Children: Local Children Serial, prepared by Samiya Mohamed and presented by Mama Anisa
- 5.45 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official Advertisements
- 6.00 Imam Mohammed Abdoh: Historical Serial (part 9)
- 7.00 Varieties
- 7.15 Holy Quran and Science: Religious Programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ahmad Shawqi Ibrahim
- 8.00 Cultural Programme (part 1)
- 8.30 Good Evening and local news
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Omnisat Al Ethneen: Local weekly programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Barjes
- 10.15 Ghadan Tushregh Al Shams: Arabic Serial (part 7)
- 11.15 Al Mawed: Variety Programme (part 1), prepared and presented

led by Tawfeeq Khalqat.
12.15 News Summary
12.20 The World Today via Satellite
12.45 Holy Quran and Closedown.

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 6.10 Winnie the Pooh: A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 Wild South "Tale of the Crayfish": A look at "Crayfish" which looks like the crab and is found in south seas.
- 7.00 Roving report. A weekly round-up of local Arab and international news.
- 7.30 Trap "Walled in": Jeaneve is a ghost in a ruined castle...Simon and Andy attempt to enter into the castle where they find the magic ring...
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Around the World. A variety of topics and events from all over the world.
- 9.00 Tour of Duty "Saigon Pt 2": Strange things are happening on the eve of the Tet Offensive. Zeke tries to save a suicidal marine. Stacy refuses to leave Saigon until she learns the cause of her father's death.

- 10.00 Homeroom "It's not Easy Being Green": When one of Darryl's students kills a tree grown as a class project he teaches them about death by holding a funeral for the tree.
- 10.30 Colourised Movie "Ransom": Starring Glenn Ford, Donna Reed, Leslie Nielsen. A richman takes desperate measures to rescue his son from a kidnapper.
- 12.00 News in brief
- 12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus
- White Ghoos
- Salmiyah
- Licence to Kill
- Al Hamra
- Arabic film
- Drive-in
- Arabic film
- Al Firdous
- Less Than Zero
- Fahheel

- Iron Angels
- Al Jahra
- Iron Master
- Granda
- Brass Target
- Salsabikhat
- C.H.U.D.
- Jeeb
- Arpan
- Ahmadi Drive-in
- High Road to China



New Year celebrations

ON December 31, 1989 the families of Yahya Al Ayoub Building celebrated New Year by presenting a programme of colourful and lively variety entertainment held in the building's 2nd floor corridor. Above hundred people gathered and enjoyed the programme. It consisted of carols, dances, a magic show, a drama and a New Year song which were all done by the children of the building with the assistance and encouragement of the parents. The programme ended with dinner after the arrival of Santa Claus with gifts and sweets.

CINEMA SHOWS	
Kuwait	Al Kuanisa St
Al Alaniya Pharmacy	Fahheel and Ahmad
Fahd Al Salem St.	Abu Hulaifa Pharmacy
Al Amal Pharmacy	Coastal Road, Abu Hulaifa
Mubarak Al Kabeer St.	Khaitan
Hawalli and Nigra	Khaitan Pharmacy
Al Haditha Pharmacy	Ibrahim Bin Adham St.
Tunis St	Jahra
Salmiya and Rumaithiya	Al Nour Pharmacy
Al Fida Pharmacy	Al Matafi Street

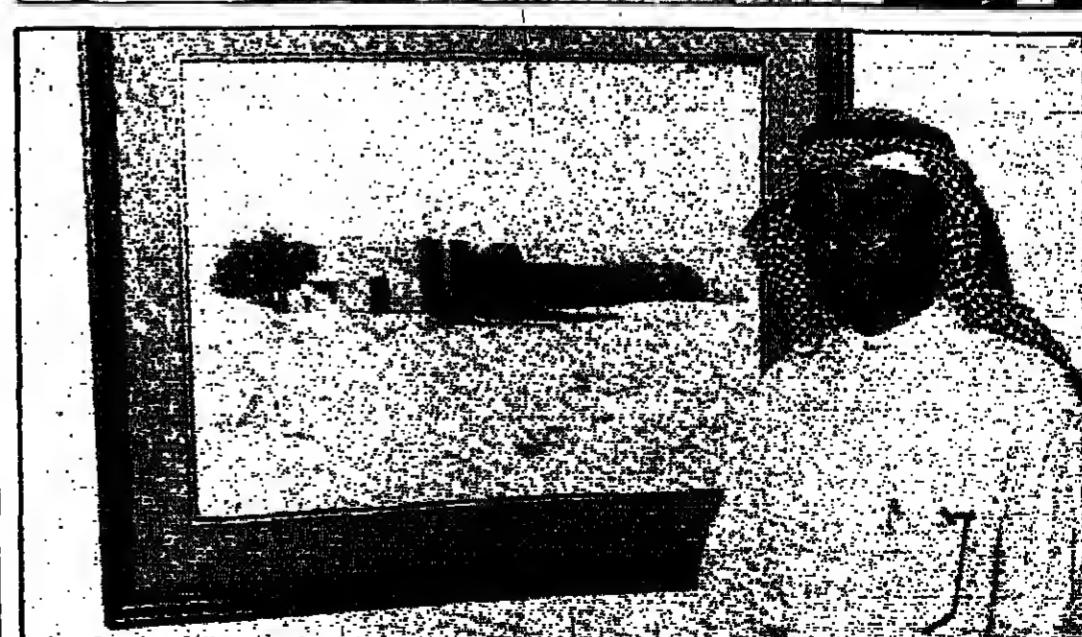
PRAYERS	
Fajr	5.19 am
Zohr	11.55
Asr	2.47 pm
Maghreb	5.05
Isha	6.28

side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers — 241360 Casmiro.

Rothmans Gold Cup Finals

THE finals of the Rothman's Gold Cup Football Tournament organised by Salcete United Sports Centre, the sports wing of the weekend club, will take place on the Sour

Grounds on Friday, January 12 at 9.00 am. Between Incredible Sports Club and Goan Sporting. Aref Essa, manager of Rothmans, will give away the trophies. All are cordially invited.



Full-time artists hold 13th exhibition

Forty-six pieces of art work were on exhibition at the Dahiya Abdullah Al Salim showroom. The exhibition was opened by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, Abdul Aziz Jafar.

SPORTS

Tivim Centre

"TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Indonesia proposes 17pc hike in budget

JAKARTA, Jan 7. (Opecna): Indonesia has announced that its proposed state budget for fiscal 1990-91 will balance out at an estimated \$24 billion, up 17 per cent from the previous year.

The estimates, presented at a plenary session of Parliament by President Suharto here yesterday, put income from oil and gas at just over \$6 billion, a 36 per cent rise over the preceding year.

Revenue from the non-petroleum sector is estimated at \$11.6 billion, 19 per cent higher than the previous year.

Government estimates set the amount of programme aid to be received in the new fiscal year at \$1.6 billion, a rise of 60 per cent, while project aid received is estimated to fall by 12 per cent to \$4.7 billion.

Indonesia's financial year begins on April 1, 1990 and the government estimates of income and expenditure will have to be approved by Parliament before becoming effective.

Estimated income from petroleum as presented by President Suharto comprises \$5 billion from oil (up 31 per cent compared with 1989-90) and just over one billion from natural gas (up 62 per cent).

Non-oil income, the bulk of which comes from various taxes and duties, will be derived mostly from income tax (\$3.6 billion), value-added tax (\$3.8 billion), and non-tax revenues (\$1.4 billion).

Import duties are expected to increase 38 per cent for the year to \$1.1 billion while customs duties are estimated to bring just over one billion, up 28 per cent over the previous year.

Concerning expenditure, routine spending is expected to amount to \$14.5 billion, 13 per cent higher than in the previous year, including \$7.1 billion for foreign debt servicing and three billion for salaries and pensions.

The increased expenditure on salary and pension payments is to cover a 10 per cent rise in civil servants' pay, effective January, 1990.

The draft budget sets aside \$4.4 billion for financing foreign-assisted development projects, an increase of 117 per cent, while 4.7 billion has been earmarked for implementing project aid programmes.

In announcing the budget figures, Suharto said the estimated increase in income in 1990-91 was based on the recent improvement in the price of petroleum on the international market.

He pointed out that whereas the government had calculated its 1989-90 budget on an oil price of \$14 a barrel, estimates for the new fiscal year had been based on a crude oil price of \$16.50.

Inflation slows

ISTANBUL, Jan 7. (Renter): Turkey said yesterday that annual inflation slowed in 1989 but bankers warned unless the government reined in spending the problem of high prices would remain.

The State Statistics Institute said inflation fell in 1989 to 68.8 per cent after showing a rise of 75.2 per cent in the previous year.

Bankers, pointing to a widening budget deficit, said inflation would cause worries if public spending was not cut.

Turkey's budget deficit is expected to top 6.2 trillion lira (\$2.7 billion) in 1989, against an official target of 4.48 trillion lira (\$31.9 billion).

Economic growth was around one per cent in 1989 while the population grew 2.5 per cent, stoking official fears that unemployment, already at 17 per cent, may increase further.

Oil discovery

NICOSIA, Jan 7. (Reuter): The Saudi-American oil company (Aramco) said today it had discovered a new oil field in central Saudi Arabia which yielded a low-sulphur high quality crude, Saudi Press Agency said.

SPA quoted an Aramco statement as saying a well drilled 123 km (77 miles) southeast of Riyadh at Al Raghbeh flowed 3,650 barrels per day (bpd) in crude and condensates on January 1.

Aramco did not give figures of the field's estimated reserves.

Markets look set to test EMS stability

PARIS, Jan 7. (Renter): Currency markets look set to test the political commitment to European Monetary System (EMS) stability this week following Italy's devaluation of the lira in the first realignment of the semi-fixed grid for three years.

Economists said EMS central banks would resist pressure for a wider currency adjustment with direct market intervention and interest rate rises if necessary after Friday's three per cent devaluation of the lira against the basket of EMS currencies.

But strong investor buying of the West German mark could undermine weak currencies such as the Danish crown and risks isolating France — a strong opponent of a general realignment.

"Now the markets will smell blood," forecast Paul Cherkow, chief international economist at US investment group Drexel Burnham Lambert in London.

The 10-year-old EMS exchange rate mechanism (ERM), which now sets parameters for eight European currencies, was designed to allow adjustments to reflect different economic performance.

"But the EMS is becoming inflexible because of the French position," said Cherkow, noting the three year gap since the last realignment was the longest on record.

"I think the markets will now take the French on," he said. Economists said France wants a more rigid grid as a step toward its cherished goal of economic

and monetary union.

But the West German Bundesbank favours allowing the mark to revalue to make imports cheaper, thus reducing inflation, and pare its huge trade surplus by making its export goods more expensive on world markets.

A mark revaluation in the coming months would clear the decks before the July 1 deadline for the first phase of a European Economic Community plan to move towards economic and monetary union, economists noted.

"I would say the Germans will get their revaluation in the next month or two," said Paul Horne, chief economist at Smith Barney, Harris Upham in Paris. "The Germans are quite insistent that they get it. They believe they are importing inflation."

Many investors also expect a higher mark, and have pushed it up strongly since the Berlin Wall crumbled last November.

They decided Europe's biggest economy would be further boosted by increased trade with its Eastern neighbours.

But gains by the mark strained the EMS grid, and last Friday forced Rome to devalue the lira when it narrowed the currency's allowed divergence band to 2.25 per cent from six per cent.

The lira had been more than four per cent below a set central rate against the mark, outside the narrower band that now applies to all EMS currencies except the Spanish peseta.

Further mark buying this week would accentuate pressure on other

currencies, and could mean even higher interest rates in some countries as they try to defend existing parties.

"European rates have already been moving up, starting with the French on December 18. That's a phenomenon that we're likely to see more of in the coming weeks," said Jonathan Hoffman, European economist at Credit Suisse First Boston.

France unilaterally raised official rates by half a percentage point on December 18 after the franc fell to a record low against the mark. Belgium and the Netherlands have also pushed rates up.

Dealers said that meant EMS central banks should intervene on Monday if the crown opens at the same levels, and Denmark could raise rates if speculative pressure continues.

Like Paris, Copenhagen has publicly ruled out a devaluation.

long-lasting stability of the franc against the mark in whatever circumstances.

That political commitment has partly protected the franc from the mark's strength, and Hoffman forecast Denmark could well be the next EMS member to have to raise interest rates.

The Danish crown was quoted at the European close on Friday at 2.35 per cent below a central bilateral rate against the mark, outside the allowed 2.25 per cent swing.

Dealers said that meant EMS central banks should intervene on Monday if the crown opens at the same levels, and Denmark could raise rates if speculative pressure continues.

Like Paris, Copenhagen has publicly ruled out a devaluation.

Many investors expect higher mark

Opec may not increase official market share

Aqazadeh urges output restraint

NICOSIA, Jan 7. (Reuter): Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh urged fellow Opec members today not to rush into producing more oil to take advantage of a surge in prices.

"I recommend that Opec members show restraint and try to adhere to the aims affirmed in the recent Opec session and that they should raise any points that they have in mind in the next session," Aqazadeh told Tehran radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries are due to meet in Vienna in March to discuss their November pact.

On Friday, days after the pact came into effect, Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said his country wanted to increase its production quota.

Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa said in Indonesia last week that the group should consider increasing individual quotas at its March meeting.

He said Iran was exporting an average 2.5 million BPD and predicted that exports would stay at this level in the coming months.

An early Opec decision to increase its official market share is unlikely despite buoyant oil prices and demands in the Gulf for higher output quotas,

from Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait off the (US) Gulf Coast waiting for (storage) space to offload," he said in a telephone interview.

"At the moment, the Gulf producers are just enjoying the higher prices," the Middle East manager of a major Japanese company told Reuters.

Analysts said the conservative Gulf Arab states might also be working to stop a price explosion that could discourage rising demand for their oil, nearly two-thirds of the world's proven reserves.

At their November 28 meeting, the 13 oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries set a ceiling of around 22.1 million barrels per day (million BPD) for the first half of this year.

They hoped this would take away about 1.5 million BPD from the market and defend oil prices at a "minimum reference" price of \$16 a barrel.

A recent Reuters survey found the 13 member-states produced a record eight-year high of around 23.6 million BPD in December, with the main increase coming from the Gulf region.

Gulf-based oil industry executives said they saw no signs so far that the Gulf Arab states planned output cuts as called for by the EEC for the next six months.

Officials and industry executives said today.

They said a leap of up to \$5 a barrel in world oil prices since Opec's November pact limiting output was caused mainly by temporary technical disruptions affecting refined products and had nothing to do with crude oil availability.

"I see a drop of between \$2 to 3 over a couple of weeks," a senior Gulf Arab official told Reuters.

"There are 10 tankers with about 15 million barrels of crude

Mishari for Dubai

Reservation system to be reviewed

Jordan and Syria.

The KAC chief affirmed that comprehensive Arab booking systems will be of great importance for Arab carriers, as the new system will protect these airlines from the monopoly practiced by giant airlines and will also spare them the payment of \$20 million in booking services from other foreign systems on the market.

The KAC delegation group's deputy director-general for commercial affairs Ghazi Al Masa'ani, acting head of the computer department Salib Al Aska, assistant commercial director for reservations Ahmed Al Hifai and adviser at the computer department Hamed Sadeq.

The nine carriers will meet for the first time in Kuwait last year and agreed to entrust a consultancy firm to examine the feasibility of the project.

Banks blamed for holding up aid for Koor

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 7. (Reuter): The Israeli treasury said today that opposition by foreign creditor banks to a recovery plan for Koor Industries Ltd was holding up government aid to the industrial giant.

The treasury put off a meeting with Koor and bank officials scheduled for tonight because of uncertainty about a government proposal to save the trade union-owned concern which is a billion dollars in debt.

"Aid to Koor will be effective only in the context of a comprehensive arrangement. The position of the foreign banks is still far from allowing this arrangement," the treasury said in a statement.

Foreign bank officials were not available for comment.

Koor, announcing it would have higher-than-expected losses for 1989, presented a revised five-year

recovery plan in November including a write-off of \$125 million in debt by Israeli and foreign creditors.

The foreign banks, by US-based Bankers Trust and Manufacturers Hanover, rejected the plan and refused to take part in the write-off.

Koor, which employs more than 20,000 workers and accounts for over 10 per cent of Israel's industrial output, owes local banks more than two thirds of the billion-dollar debt.

Quoting what appeared to be treasury leaks, Israeli newspapers reported today the government would give Koor \$30 million in aid and promised last year and another \$30 million in return for equity.

The newspaper said Hevrat Havodim, Koor's parent company, would in return hand over its shares of the national airline El Al, Zim Shipping Company, and National Water Authority Mekor.

Venezuela gets renewed IMF backing

Debt negotiators see accord with banks

CARACAS, Venezuela, Jan 7. (AP): Venezuelan debt negotiators flew to New York today for what may be final negotiations on reducing Venezuela's \$33-billion foreign debt, the fourth largest in Latin America.

Caracas newspapers quoted anonymous high-level sources in the government as saying negotiations with a bank advisory committee headed by Chase Manhattan Bank were in the last stages. The report predicted a letter of intent would be signed with commercial creditors before the end of the month.

Pedro Tinoco, central bank president, and Miguel Rodriguez, the planning minister, were to hold talks in New York with the committee that represents Venezuela's approximately 400 commercial creditor institutions in the US, Japan and Europe, according to government sources.

Venezuela received renewed support from the International Monetary Fund this week for its economic reform programmes. The IMF granted some \$323 million as part of its three-year \$4.8 billion loan programme signed earlier this year.

Some \$100 million of the latest disbursement is to be used for debt reduction measures such as direct buy-back of debt on secondary markets, under the IMF programme.

Venezuela's economy contracted by 8.1 per cent in 1989 due to economic reforms drawn up with IMF backing. The reforms included raising the cost of public services such as transport and electricity.

Debt interest payments were suspended in January and capital payments in February, with the government citing a drop in international reserves.

Negotiations with banks have stalled over Venezuela's insistence on receiving the same treatment as Mexico, which struck an agreement with commercial banks in March.

Vietnam faces cutback in loans

Hanoi angry over IMF blockade

HANOI, Jan 7. (Reuter): Vietnam, facing a major cutback in loans from allies in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, says Western lending institutions are withholding desperately needed aid out of malice.

Deputy director of Vietnam State Bank's foreign department, Nguyen Cong Hau, said Hanoi had been waiting since September for the IMF to help secure a loan to pay off the country's debt even though Vietnam had satisfied all the fund's requirements.

"The relationship between the IMF and Vietnam has been influenced by political factors, particularly the Cambodian problem," he told Reuters. "Now that problem is over there is no excuse for delaying a relationship between us."

Hai said loans from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe — totalling some one billion roubles (\$1.6 billion in Moscow's official rate) so far under a current five-year plan — would drop sharply in 1991.

"They have their own economic problems now. We foresee major borrowing difficulties," he said. "They are committed to 1990 as the year of the five-year plan then that's it."

Vietnam, which pulled its troops out of Cambodia last September, was on the brink of securing a loan of between \$135 and 140 million from a group of Western banks co-ordinated by the Banque Francaise du Commerce Exterieur (BFCE) to settle outstanding debts with the IMF, he said.

The IMF, which stopped aid to Vietnam in 1985 after the impoverished country defaulted on payments, has insisted the debt be paid off before the fund resumes lending.

Hai said BFCE was waiting for the IMF to adopt a resolution acknowledging Vietnam had complied with the fund's proposal for bringing the country's economy into line with the rest of the world.

Gulf power show

Finns out to win business

THE Finnish Foreign Trade Association — Finland's main export promotion body — is to head a seven-strong delegation to Middle East Electricity '90 which will begin later this month.

Companies ranging from engine manufacturers to electricity component producers have joined the delegation in a bid to secure valuable export orders from the booming Gulf power industry.

Wartsila Diesel, one of the country's leading engine manufacturers which recently clinched two major orders for water projects in Saudi Arabia, will exhibit diesel power plants at the exhibition which will be held at the Dubai World Trade Centre from January 14-17.

Wartsila is currently supplying four generating sets for a 12,000kw power station at the Sadrat water drilling plant, north-west of Riyadh.

Bombay shares

Stock	Price	Open	Close	Pr.Clos.	Pr.Close	Max Share	Min Share	90	100	100

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Foreign exchange reserves decrease

TOKYO, Jan 7, (UPI): Japan's foreign exchange reserves at the end of 1989 posted the sharpest year-on-year fall on record because of the Central Bank's yen-supporting intervention but the country was believed to be the largest foreign currency holder in the world, the Finance Ministry reported yesterday.

The ministry said Japan's foreign exchange holdings totalled \$84.895 billion, up \$148 million from November but down \$12.767 billion from the preceding year.

Despite the sharp fall, Japan's foreign exchange reserves were believed to be the largest in the world, ministry officials said.

Ministry officials attributed the year-to-year decrease largely to repeated yen-supporting operations by the Central Bank during the year.

It was the first time since 1982 Japan's foreign exchange reserves had fallen from the preceding year, the ministry said.

The previous record decrease of \$12.692 billion was set at the end of the second international oil crisis in 1979.

The officials said the yen fluctuated wildly in a range of 27.55 yen against the dollar during 1989 because of a wide interest gap between Japan and the United States and political developments in China and Eastern Europe.

Japan's foreign exchange holdings compared with about \$74 billion for Taiwan at the end of October last year, \$71.468 billion for the United States and \$63.762 billion for West Germany, the officials said.

First accord backs private investment

WASHINGTON, Jan 7, (AP): A new international body announced yesterday the first accord in its job of bolstering private investment throughout the world: insurance of a US mining company against damage from any war in Indonesia.

The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (Miga) is guaranteeing \$50 million being invested by the freeport McMoran Copper Co. of New Orleans, Louisiana, against losses over 14 years from war or from breach of contract by the Indonesia government. The company is planning to spend more than \$300 million to expand a copper, silver and gold mine in Indonesia's island province of Irian Jaya.

Irian Jaya is the eastern half of the big island of New Guinea. The western half is the independent country of Papua New Guinea, where rebels have upset the international copper market by shutting down one of the world's biggest mines.

Political risks were taken into account in writing the insurance but the policy does not cover civil uprisings, said Leigh P. Hollywood, the agency's vice-president for guarantees. He added that the company has private insurance against that kind of damage.

Yoshia Terasawa of Japan, the agency's executive vice president, told a news conference that its international board has also authorised policies for other American and Canadian ventures, two in Chile and one in Ghana.

Many individual governments have long had similar agencies to insure their own citizens' investments abroad, such as the US Overseas Private Investment Corporation (Opic). The new agency is designed to encourage the acceptance of foreign investment by Third World countries which are wary of too much influence by individual big powers.

The other three authorised projects have not yet been finally approved by the companies and by the agency staff. Hollywood explained that there has to be an interval between the board's approval and the signing of a contract while both sides review all the long-term considerations. The agency's guarantees can last for as long as 20 years and cannot be revoked.

Auto exports decline

SEOUL, South Korea, Jan 7, (AP): South Korea's auto makers reported yesterday their combined exports in 1989 plunged 40 per cent from a year ago to 347,000 motor vehicles, but domestic sales jumped 48.6 per cent to 778,000 vehicles.

The sharp drop in exports was mainly attributed to a reduced demand in the United States and a loss of price competitiveness caused by the Korean currency's appreciation, steep wage hikes and labour strikes.

Officials at the five companies all said that to cope with reduced sales overseas, the local makers stressed marketing at home where profits were bigger on strong demand, particularly among people at mid-income levels.

They said most of the exports were small cars and that about 75 per cent of the exports went to the United States.

Hyundai Motor Co., the country's biggest automaker, suffered most. Its sales of exports last year dropped 50.7 per cent from a year ago to 200,877 vehicles.

Romania to restart imports from West

BUCHAREST, Jan 7, (Reuter): Romania's new leaders, anxious to satisfy the needs of the people and rebuild their shattered economy, are to restart imports of consumer goods and much-needed technology from the West.

Prime Minister Petre Roman, quoted yesterday by the Ropress news agency, said the ruling National Salvation Front leadership had authorised hard currency imports worth \$125

million for the first quarter of 1990 along with a large increase in imports from the East bloc.

"We have endorsed a very large plan of imports for the stage of our economy," Roman said.

Former leader Nicolae Ceausescu banned imports from the West as part of a drive to pay off the country's foreign debt. Food was exported while

the population suffered rationing.

Roman, stressing the front's main priority was meeting the needs of the people, said in some sectors no imports had been approved for more than 10 years. He cited transport, natural gas distribution, medicine, education and telecommunications as particularly in need of up-to-date technology.

Since the front took power, Romania's shops have filled with goods for

merely reserved for the privileged few and food exports have been halted.

Rompes said Roman told a meeting of the front council the government had agreed imports from its east bloc neighbours worth 155 million roubles (\$250 million), 3.5 times higher than in the same period last year.

Since the new government lifted power rationing, gas and electricity supply had been increased by 40-45 per

cent, he said, adding that the country was investigating import power from neighbouring countries.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said yesterday the Soviet Union would provide 22 million cubic metres (77 million cubic feet) of gas and 390 million tonnes of oil in emergency aid.

Roman described the country's

balance of payments as "very acceptable." The foreign debt was some \$500 million, while \$2.5 billion was owed by foreign debtors.

In the past eight years Romania has paid back some \$11 billion in principal on loans and \$9 billion in interest and service charges.

On January 3, the front scrapped a law by Ceausescu banning foreign borrowing.

Bid to accelerate post-war recovery

Baghdad to pay \$3b of overseas debt

Investment plan

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Jan 7, (AP): Iraq's financial problems should ease in the coming decade and the government will be able to speed up paying off the huge foreign debt it ran up during the 8-year war with Iran, acting Finance Minister Mobammed Meardi Saleh said today.

Saleh, who is also trade minister, told a news conference that Baghdad will pay off \$3 billion of its debt this year and stop all its short-term credits with foreign countries in a bid to accelerate its post-war recovery.

"We will sharply reduce our purchases by short-term credit... we're capable of paying that in cash," Saleh said.

The US-educated economist, who drew up a new austerity budget unveiled last month, said that an expected rise in oil prices, a higher Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries oil production quota and a cutback in imports will make faster debt repayment possible.

But he declined to say how much Iraq is in debt or how long it will take to repay its creditors.

Iraq's foreign debt has been conservatively estimated at \$25-30 billion.

That does not include an estimated \$30-35 billion provided by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab states to prop up Iraq's economy during the war. Economists believe the Saudis and their partners will write that off.

Baghdad has negotiated a rescheduling of its debts with several creditor nations, including France, since the United Nations-sponsored ceasefire in the Gulf war took effect in August 1988.

He noted that Baghdad has already asked Britain, with

It has also embarked on an ambitious development plan and expanded its oil and petrochemical industry. Iraq has oil reserves estimated at 100 billion barrels, ranking second only to Saudi Arabia.

Stable oil prices, currently pegged at around \$18 a barrel, will ensure revenues estimated at \$15 billion this year. Iraq's current Opec quota is 3.14 million barrels a day.

It was the first time that President Saddam Hussein's government has officially disclosed details of its annual budget since the Gulf war broke out in September 1980.

Eastern European lending up

BASEL, Switzerland, Jan 7, (AP): Banks of the leading industrialised countries have significantly increased their lending to Eastern Europe and some Asian Third World countries in the first half of 1989 while outstanding claims on most developing countries outside Asia declined, according to a report published yesterday by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

In current dollar terms, the banks' consolidated claims on countries outside the so-called reporting area declined by \$23.4 billion or nearly 4 per cent to a new total of \$630 billion. The reporting area includes the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, Japan, Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Austria and Spain.

Taking into account the effects of the dollar's exchange rate fluctuations, claims were estimated to have increased marginally by about \$700 million during the six-month period, the BIS report said.

Claims on Eastern Europe went up by 5.3 billion, or 6.5 per cent and mostly at short term, to a total of \$18.5 billion. Of the new funds, 4.2 billion were obtained by the Soviet Union. New credits were also recorded for Bulgaria, 0.7 billion, East Germany, 0.5 billion, and Hungary, 0.3 billion.

Recorded claims on Poland declined by a further 0.4 billion, and on Romania by a further 0.3 billion. Because of rescheduling arrangements, 70.9 per cent of the \$9.3 billion worth of claims Poland now are due only after more than two years.

Taiwan's exports surge

Trade surplus widens

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Jan 7, (AP): Taiwan registered a trade surplus of \$13.93 billion last year, an increase of 27.5 per cent from 1988, the government reported yesterday.

Taiwan's exports in 1989 totalled \$62.6 billion dollars, a 9.3 per cent increase over 1988, while imports were \$52.27 billion, up 5.3 per cent, said the government's directorate general of budget, accounting and statistics.

Taiwan's surplus with the United States, its largest trading partner, grew 15.1 per cent to \$12.8 billion last year, the agency said.

Exports to the United States totalled \$24.8 billion in 1989, compared with \$23.43 billion a year earlier, and imports of American products totalled \$12 billion, compared with \$13 billion in 1988, the report said.

Taiwan's trade with Japan, its second-largest trading partner, posted a deficit of \$6.97 billion last year, up 14.9 per cent from 1988.

Taiwan's imports from Japan totalled \$16.03 billion in 1989, compared with \$14.82 billion in 1988, and exports to Japan totalled \$39.06 billion, compared with \$38.76 billion in 1988.

Meanwhile, Taiwan registered a surplus of \$2.56 billion with European countries last year on two-way trade of \$19.32 billion.

The surplus represents a 36.1 per cent increase over the previous period.

"External factors boosted Taiwan's exports and its overall trade surplus," said Yu Teh-Pei, chairwoman of the Economics Department at Soochow University.

Yu said Taiwan won extra opportunities last year as labour unrest in South Korea and political turmoil in China drove some foreign orders to this island.

The better-than-expected economic situation in the United States also helped Taiwan's trade, she said.

Taiwan's total trade surplus shrank 42 per cent to \$10.93 billion in 1988.

Meanwhile diplomatic sources said yesterday that an application by Taiwan to join GATT poses complex legal and political problems for the world trade forum.

This is because the United Nations recognises Taiwan as a province of mainland China, and Beijing, which is also seeking GATT membership, has previously succeeded in keeping Taipei out of most international organisations, the sources said.

Factory orders jump

US inventories up

WASHINGTON, Jan 7, (AP): Orders to US factories for manufactured goods rose 2.4 per cent in November, pumped up by durable goods to the second highest level ever, the government reported yesterday.

The Commerce Department said orders for both durable and non-durable manufactured goods totalled a seasonally adjusted \$239.7 billion after edging down 0.1 per cent in October.

It was the highest level of orders since a record \$239.9 billion were posted last April and the fastest rate of increase since a 2.8 per cent advance in August.

The department said all of the November improvement was in orders for durable goods — big-ticket items expected to last more than three years.

All of the major durable categories recorded increased sales.

The report was one of several recently portraying a mixed picture of the extent of sluggishness in the economy, particularly in housing and the durable-goods manufacturing sector.

Improvements have been reported in November, for instance, in sales of new and existing houses and of durable goods, and industrial production advanced 0.1 per cent.

The Labour Department reported Friday that the manufacturing sector lost 25,000 jobs in December, bringing job losses in this area to 195,000 since last March.

Savers outraged

Savings swap aims to curb inflation

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 7, (UPI): Banks in Argentina reopened Thursday for the first time since Dec 28 as sated and angry depositors waited to long lines at banks when reopened Jan 4 after six days due to a government programme to stop hyperinflation. (Reuter wirephoto)

Savers outraged

Savings swap aims to curb inflation

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 7, (UPI): Banks in Argentina reopened Thursday for the first time since Dec 28 as sated and angry depositors waited to long lines at banks when reopened Jan 4 after six days due to a government programme to stop hyperinflation. (Reuter wirephoto)

inflation, now running at a rate of over 50 per cent a month, by lowering the rate of the dollar.

Only small savers, or those with CDs worth \$500 or less, were allowed to withdraw their cash.

Banks were closed on Dec 29 and Jan 1 because of regular holidays. They remained closed Tuesday and Wednesday to give them time to adopt to the government decree Moody had banned short-term certificates of deposit, known as "Plazo fijos."

These CDs, legal prior to Moody's surprise ban, were granted by both state and private banks usually for terms of seven days. They carried interest rates above the monthly inflation rate.

Economy Minister Ernesto Gonzalez, in announcing the ban on CDs, said the forced termination was necessary to end the hyperinflationary cycle and save the banking system from collapse.

Savers waiting in line Thursday for banks to reopen were outraged.

"This is worse than a swindle. This is bad faith," said a 66-year-old retired businessman while waiting in line to get an I.O.U. for books in lieu of his certificate of deposit.

The forced savings swap was designed to curb

inflation, now running at a rate of over 50 per cent a month, by lowering the rate of the dollar.

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Although free trade boosters cautioned that it would take years for the benefits to become evident, Canadians have grown disenchanted with the pact.

A recent poll published by Toronto-based Maclean's magazine found that a majority of Canadians, 52 per cent, now believe the deal was a bad, or very bad, idea. A similar survey in 1988

found that 57 per cent supported the

accord.

Support has fallen during a period of slower growth and a deterioration of the country's trading performance, which economists say can be blamed on international conditions rather than just the free trade agreement.

Last October, Canada, which sends 80 per cent of its exports to the United States, announced its first monthly trade deficit with the rest of the world in 13 years. In the first 10 months of 1989 the country's trade surplus had been slashed in half to \$3.44 billion.

There have been a number of well-publicised job reductions and plant closures in the automobile sector and elsewhere which critics are quick to say are the result of free trade.

Infometrica Ltd predicts that trade will

grow only modestly this year.

The government predicted Canadian consumers

Mystic speaks out

'Palmistry can reveal your inherent chances'

SEX appeal, heartbreak and luck are all in the hands of the stars, says top palmist Sue Armstrong. And in her latest book, *Star Palms*, mystic Sue reveals how you can assess your own star qualities by matching your palms with those of TV and showbiz celebrities.

Sue saw a "dark shadow" around the hands of Roy Kinnear, who died tragically at the age of 53. She told soap star Stephanie Beacham that she was psychic. And she revealed an aggressive streak in comedian Barry Humphries, who plays larger than life Aussie housewife Dame Edna Everage.

Sue, aged 42, told me: "With palmistry, you can discover the opportunities within you and get to know yourself and others better. When I read the hands of the stars, I almost expected a wealth of markings on their hands indicating charmed lives."

"But instead I found that the most energetic influence was in fact Jupiter and Mars, the sign of drive and persistence. All the personalities I spoke to have the ability to overcome any difficult phase. It was amazing to find so much strength in so many people."

Slim, blonde Sue, an avid theatre and film fan, spent nearly two years collecting and analysing palm prints of the famous for her book.

And some celebrities were unnerved by her accuracy. Sue, who lives with her husband Den in sleepy Rustington, Sussex, told me: "Stephanie Beacham, star of *The Colbys* and *Connie*, was fascinated by my reading. I told her she was a forceful, commanding woman with no time for ditherers."

"But I also saw great sadness in her hands, and I could tell there had been crises in the past when Stephanie's inner self was tormented. But she is certainly a fighter. Stephanie told me the reading was quite uncanny."

One of the most outstanding things Sue picked up on Stephanie's hand is her index or Jupiter, finger. If yours, too, sways unusually strongly away from the hand, it means you have a challenging nature, sometimes bossy and indifferent to the world.

"And if your fate line — which can stem from anywhere on the palm and is read upwards — crosses your head line — which begins between the thumb and forefinger at the centre of the palm, and if, like Stephanie, you have crosses between your head and heart line — which begins underneath the little finger — then Sue claims you are psychic."

Sue gave a less optimistic reading to character actor Roy Kinnear, well-known for his comic roles in the film *The Three Musketeers* and numerous TV sitcoms.

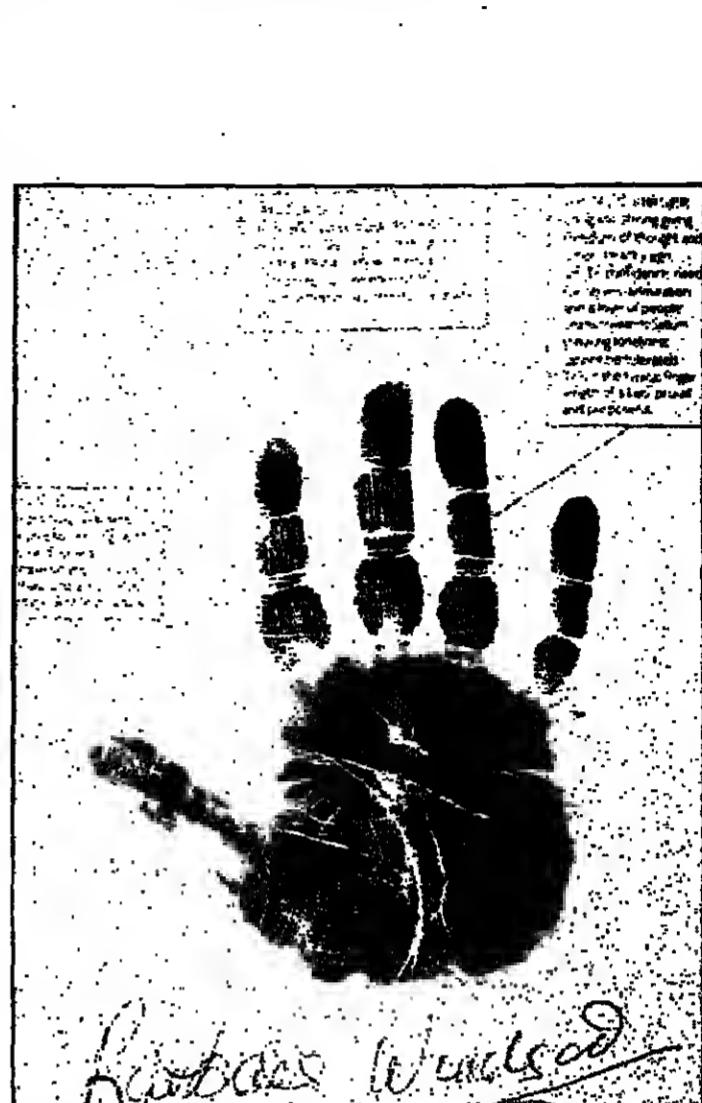
She said: "I feel a dark shadow around him, and a sadness which



Glamorous 'Dynasty' star Stephanie Beacham was told by Sue that she's psychic.



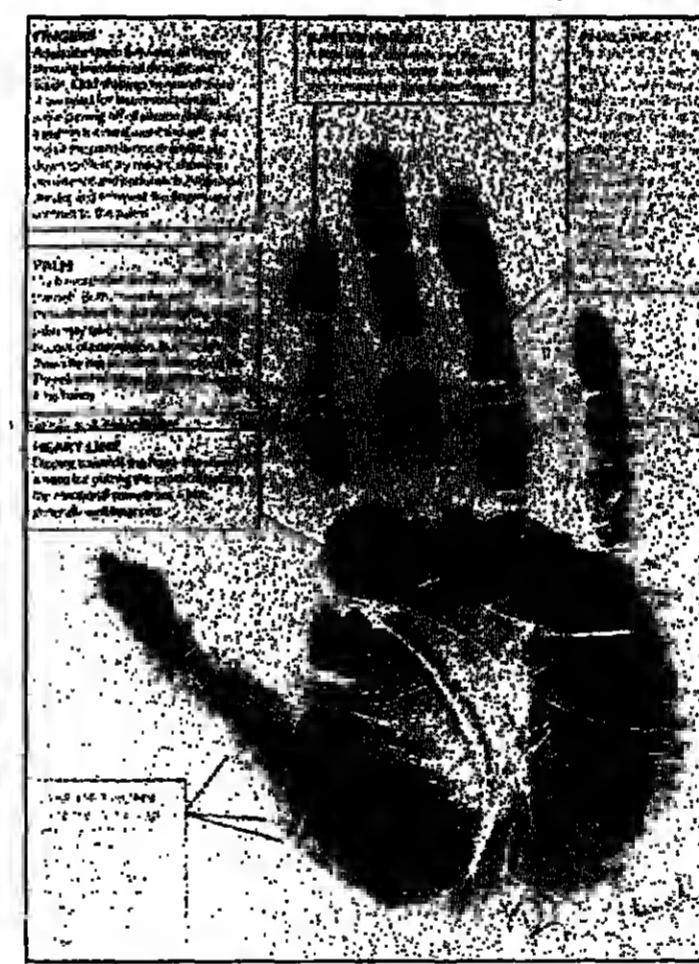
Sue saw a 'dark shadow' in the palms of Kinnear, who died at the tragically early age of 53 while making a film.



Bubbly Barbara Windsor's hands revealed that she was just like her 'Carry On' character — warm, cheeky and sexy.



Actress Susannah York has four fate lines, which means she was destined for fame from an early age.



Barry Humphries, alias Dame Edna Everage, has a vulgar, aggressive streak, according to Sue, which helps him put audiences in their place.

Martin Landau's performance may win Oscar

Portrayal of murderous doc in *Crimes and Misdemeanours* brilliant

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): One of the year's best prospects for an Oscar nomination is Martin Landau for his brilliant performance as the murderous doctor in Woody Allen's "Crimes And Misdemeanours."

Landau was nominated for best supporting actor last year for his performance in "Tucker: The Man And His Dream," but he lost out in the balloting to Kevin Kline who played an out-of-control crazy in "A Fish Called Wanda."

This year's veteran character actor is up against equally tough competition just to get nominated for supporting actor honours: Danny Aiello in "Do The Right Thing," Denzel Washington

and Morgan Freeman in "Glory" and Alan Alda, who like Landau, appeared in "Crimes And Misdemeanours."

The major question involving Landau and other potential nominees for supporting player is determining just what constitutes a starring role versus a supporting role.

In Landau's case, his performance in "Crimes And Misdemeanours" could be interpreted as a leading role — he spends as much or more time on screen as Allen or anyone else on the cast.

But his thinking is clear: "When you make a picture with Woody, you're a supporting player," he said. An example

would be Michael Caine, who won an Oscar for supporting actor when he worked with Allen in "Hannah And Her Sisters."

"To me a nomination is a tip of the hat from your peers. And I like that," Landau said.

"It's not a popularity contest. Actors are tough on each other. As a result, if they give you Oscar recognition, I value that, because it comes from people who do what you do to make a living. A nomination is a vote of confidence."

Landau admits that it helps an actor's chances if he is to a superhit and "Crimes And Misdemeanours" does not fall into that category.

"The more people who see

your performance, the better chance you have to be considered for a nomination," he said. "But Crimes And Misdemeanours has done very well for a Woody Allen movie."

Asked to define a "Woody Allen movie," Landau replied immediately.

"It's a personal statement by a genius with wonderful artistic autonomy," he said. "He can call a studio and say, 'I'm ready, and they'll wire him the financing without looking at the script."

"I was fortunate to get the whole script when he asked me to play the role of the doctor in the movie. When I flew to New York to see him about the part, I had read eight of his previous screen-

plays, all of which have been published.

"Reading a script and seeing the completed movie are two very different things. When I read Crimes And Misdemeanours I thought it was better than any of the others. I loved the character he had in mind for me."

"I told Woody why I thought it was the best script he'd ever written. He was pleased until I said, 'but I see the character differently than you do.'

"I saw the doctor more sympathetically than Woody did. Woody wrote him without a single redeeming quality — a liar, a cheater and he kills someone and gets away with it."

SINGAPORE, (Reuters): Singapore's campaign to become a nation of non-smokers is making nicotine addicts feel hunted and worrying tobacco companies.

"I can't smoke at home because of my kids, I can't smoke at work because of my colleagues, now I can't smoke in public because of the government," a former chain-smoker said.

"I have been forced to cut down on my smoking," he lamented.

A ban on all forms of tobacco advertisements came into effect in the New Year forcing shopkeepers to hurriedly tear down their cigarette posters.

The law prohibits advertisements that show the name or trademark of tobacco products on vehicles, souvenirs, mementos or gifts.

It also prohibits the promotion and distribution of free samples of cigarettes or other tobacco products and their packing with other goods.

Cigarette ads have been banned for years in newspapers and on radio and television.

Last November Singapore extended its smoking

prohibitions to include air-conditioned supermarkets and department stores, indoor sports halls, restaurants and museums.

Previously, smoking was not allowed in public lifts, buses, amusement centres, cinemas, hospital, indoor skating rinks, fast-food restaurants and underground trains and stations.

A spokesman for the Tobacco Manufacturers and Importers Association of Singapore said it was still too early to judge to what extent the new measures would hurt sales.

He said on the whole Singapore's anti-smoking campaign had not really hurt profit margins because "smokers are still smoking."

"But growth has slowed down tremendously," he admitted.

He said the ban on advertisements could hurt new products because people would not know what was coming onto the market or the scientific advances made by the tobacco industry.

"The bottom line is that smokers are still smoking and some new smokers have come on stream."

Food shortage driving Indonesia's elephants to raid plantations

GUNUNG BATIN, Indonesia, (Reuters): Michael Priyono got onto the tame elephant just after midnight and chased two of its wild brothers through the dense Sumatran jungle.

Thirty km (20 miles) later, the 37-year-old Indonesian government worker gave up.

"We'll chase them again tomorrow," he said.

Priyono, who heads a programme to save elephants in the area, had hoped to capture the beasts after they strayed into a coconut plantation and return them to a government reserve.

Indonesia protects its elephants and has set aside large jungle areas for them. But a shortage of jungle food is driving them into agricultural land where they compete with man for space.

Most of Indonesia's 5,000 elephants are in the huge eastern island of Sumatra.

At least 600 live in the southern part and

many have been foraging in plantations at night, knocking over coconut trees in search of the sweet sap inside.

By dawn, hundreds of trees lie strewn across the ground.

"This is just like a restaurant for them. It's frustrating to see day after day," said Ramoo Arsajaya, project executive of PT Multi Agro Corporation, which runs a private 10,000-hectare (24,700-acre) coconut and cassava plantation.

Arsajaya said elephants levelled at least 100 hectares (25 acres) of coconut palms to just two months at his plantation.

He said the trees would be replanted, but would take more than two years to produce coconuts.

Settlers in areas frequented by migrating elephants say most of their crops have been

destroyed and at least one person killed by elephants in the past year.

Getting the animals out of cultivated areas and back to reserves is not easy.

"Chasing them away is a very dangerous job. When those elephants get angry they chase back," Arsajaya said.

Priyono said: "Actually they have an instinct to kill but if they are in shock or desperate, anything could be destroyed, even a bulldozer."

His team from the government's Elephant Domestication Centre started work last November in the Gunung Batin area, where Multi Agro and three other private plantations have had elephant problems.

The team tries to capture the young elephants, which are easier to train, and take them to the domestication centre in Way

Kambas, 70 km (45 miles) away. The older animals are returned to the reserves.

"But this will only solve half the problem. The real problem is how to make sure those elephants never come back again," one conservationist said.

South Sumatra's jungles are big enough to hold more than double the actual number of elephants but there is not always enough food.

"Expanding and improving their habitat is a matter of funds. We haven't got that," he said.

Training the captured elephants is as arduous as managing the wild ones.

"We need at least four people to tame even a very young elephant," said Samak Sanchai, a Thai instructor who helped Indonesia's Forestry Ministry's Way Kambas centre in

1985.

Using chains and rattan to tie the elephants' legs and a small, sharp-tipped "ganco" hammer to stung them, instructors first teach the elephants to lift their legs, walk at a controlled pace and salute humans.

Then the schooling becomes more complicated.

"We train the elephants according to the needs of the school and sometimes according to their own talent," Sanchai told Reuters.

"This one is trained especially for catching his wild brothers. He can run up to 80 kilometres an hour (50 mph) if necessary," he said, stroking a 35-year-old Thai elephant, Tongbei, who came with him four years ago to set up the programme.

Like a boarding school, Way Kambas works to a strict routine. At 8 am the ele-

phants are roused for an hour of training, then let loose in the reserve to look for lunch.

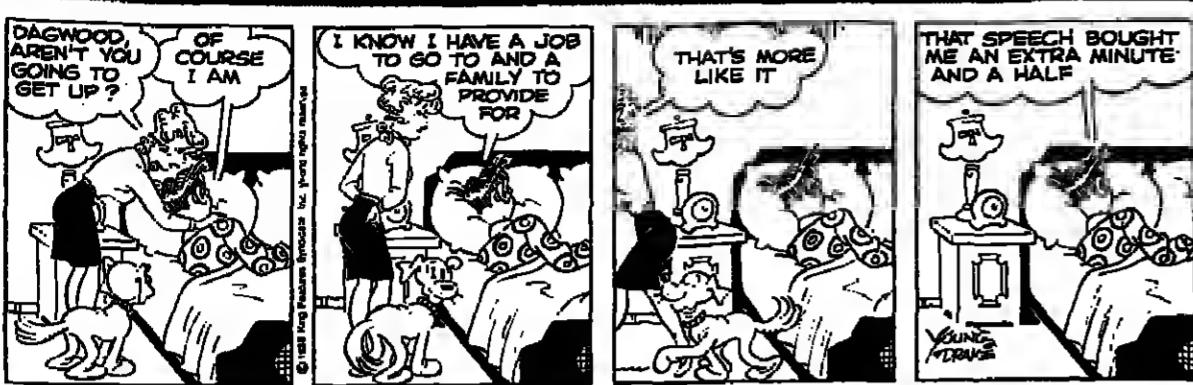
They rarely stray far and at 3 pm are back for their hour-long afternoon session. Bath-time follows, when the pachyderm group together for a companionable rest.

There are also sports sessions. Sanchai and his Indonesian colleagues have set up an elephant soccer club, which performs at festivals or local celebrations.

Way Kambas, on the edge of a 130-hectare (320-acre) sanctuary, is home to 38 elephants at a time. After six months some are bought by zoos, which pay 7.5 million rupiah (\$4,200) for an educated elephant.

"We cannot always find a good zoo which has enough money to buy the elephants. So we have to go on paying to take care of them," said an official at the Environment Ministry.

BLONDIE By Dean Young & Stan Efferding



WAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUMPT By Bill Holman



FRED DIBBLEY



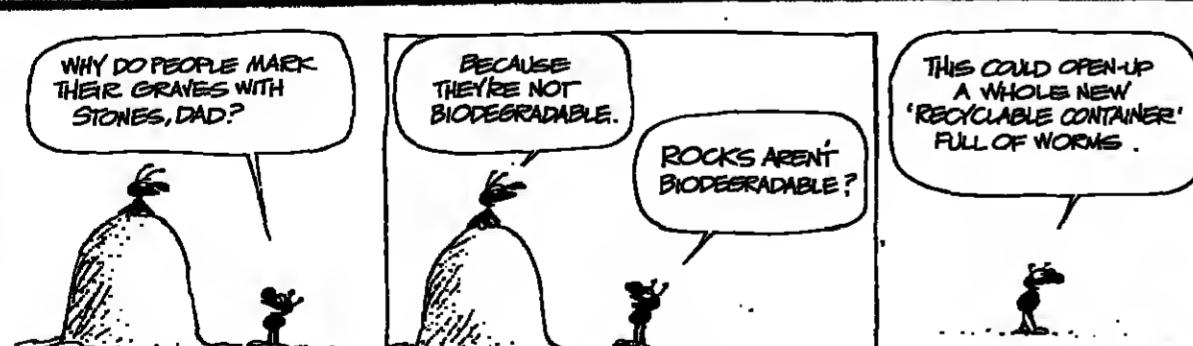
THE WIZARD OF ID



MOM & GARY



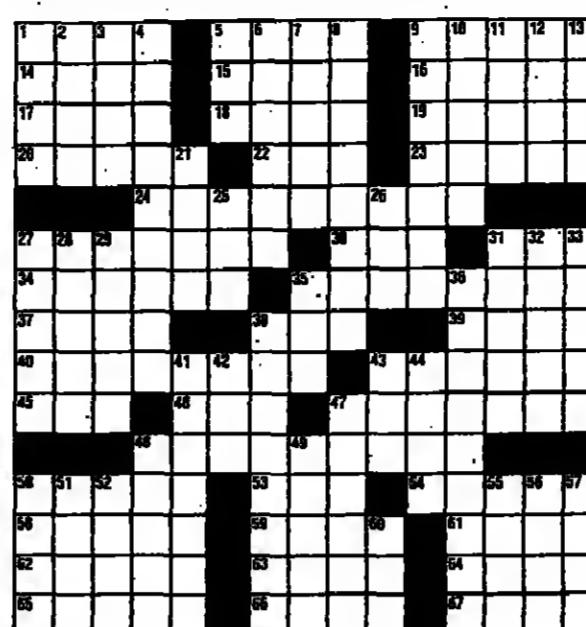
BETTY BY MARY SCHIER



THE MAN By G. Edward & J. Shulman



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Game for equestrians
5 River at Munich
9 French revolutionary
10 Jaan Paul
14 Cupid
15 Cancel, to e printer
16 Famous violin maker
17 The Darlings' dog
18 Algerian seaport
19 Place for e hearty yodel
20 Prevailing tendency
22 From — Z
23 Vapid
24 Rumor mill
27 Charge an official with a crime
30 Chemical suffix
31 Book of the Bible: Abbr.
34 A martial art
35 And so forth
37 Geraint's wife
38 Caviar
39 MP's concern
40 Dupes
43 Most rational
45 Question
46 Daffy
47 Refugee
48 Mar
50 Sirad
53 Stout
54 Poetry muse
55 Lasso
59 Center
61 Angered
62 Medieval helmet

63 "Speak no —"
64 Diamond number
65 Ganders
66 Transaction
67 Dines
68 DOWN
1 Breathe hard
2 Persian poet
3 Solitary
4 Citrus beverage
5 Wedding words
6 Angel
7 Having wings
8 Do a decorator's job
9 Kind of idol
10 Chemical compound
11 — evils
12 Like — of bricks
13 Ceramic item
21 Mill oath
25 Super sport
26 Business abbr.
27 Former Japanese premier

Hayato —
28 Filles' features
29 Sewing mishap
31 More up-to-date
32 Jagged
33 Ceases
35 Dawn goddess
36 Mandarin
38 Embarrassed
41 Ape
42 Anatomical duct
43 Dallas inst.
44 River at Leeds
47 Female adviser
48 Lavishes love, with "on"
49 "Amo, amas, — e lass"

50 Boast
51 Ireland
52 Plucky
55 Scotto solo
56 Big top, e.g.
57 Lyric writings
60 Building extension

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

PLIE	STALER	CHE
AEON	ARRIVE	LAM
RINSE	CYCLES	ISM
PROS	PEPPY	
PASSION	CREEP	
OPTIC	SHOCKERS	
SPARSE	TAUT	RET
TOY	EMITS	SPA
ESS	ERIN	TOPHAT
REIGNING	NAIVE	
INDTED	ROADOPEN	
PATTI	FIFI	
OUR	CUTOFFRULES	
ERI	ENABLE	TINT
TAM	DENSER	EDDY

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you act.

♦ 954 ♠ 6 ♦ AQ1052 ♠ K873 Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A.—Don't count your singleton in partner's suit as 2 distributional points, which would merit a response at the two-level. The hand is a possible misfit, so you want to keep the bidding as low as possible. Bid one no trump. On a good day, partner will rebid in a minor.

Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦ K83 ♠ A8763 ♠ A ♠ K732 The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

* — weak What action do you take?

A.—North might or might not have a club suit for his double, but the one suit he must have for a takeout double of major is the other major. Therefore, bid three hearts despite the discrepancy of strength in the two suits.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦ AJ54 ♠ AKQ82 ♠ Void ♠ KJ75 Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

A.—If you play limit raises, this is the hand for three spades. If your jump raises are forcing, however, you have something of a problem. You have to respond two clubs now, then support spades at your next turn. How awkward!

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦ J53 ♠ 9872 ♠ Q7 ♠ KQ75

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East
2 S* Pass Pass Dbl

Pass ?

* — weak

What action do you take?

A.—North might or might not have a club suit for his double, but the one suit he must have for a takeout double of major is the other major. Therefore, bid three hearts despite the discrepancy of strength in the two suits.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦ 8632 ♠ A5 ♠ AQ10 ♠ J652

Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

A.—If you play limit raises, this is the hand for three spades. If your jump raises are forcing, however, you have something of a problem. You have to respond two clubs now, then support spades at your next turn. How awkward!

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦ AJ54 ♠ AKQ82 ♠ Void ♠ KJ75

Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

A.—Your hand is worth seven tricks—six in spades and one in hearts. According to the Rule of Two and Three, that makes it worth an opening bid of four spades. We see no reason to take any other



YOUR STARS



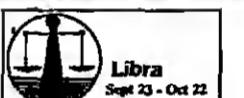
Aries March 21 - April 19

Something you had thought you had learnt will not be completely mastered. You should have the courage of your convictions. Do not rely much on mechanical aids. Be cordial.



Cancer June 21 - July 20

You will get the hang of something that has been defying you for some time. You should not try to take the credit for something you know well you have not done. You are liable to mislay things, so take care. Be less belligerent.



Libra Sept 23 - Oct 22

You will be able to do something different but avoid going over the top. You should make sure you do not leave any doors or windows unlocked when you leave home. Avoid doing anything that is likely to lead to a muddle. Be merciful.



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19

You will tend to understate others and should try to compensate for the tendency. Something you have been meaning to do will now become possible. However, you must make sure you do not waste any time. Be less extravagant.



Taurus April 21 - May 20

You will have to deal with some rather formidable people, so beware. At the same time, do not neglect a cold or what seems like a small infection. Avoid eating too many sweet things and moderate your drinking, too. Be careful.



Leo July 23 - Aug 22

You are all too liable to allow yourself to be discouraged. Your luck or otherwise, 22-23 and 33. Noticing what it appears to be so do try to look beneath the surface. Take a little extra care. Be benevolent.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

You should not think you are the only one on the road. Take sufficient rest and do not overstrain yourself when exercising. Have just a little more faith in yourself. Be moderate.



Gemini May 22 - June 21

Do not believe all you hear. Make sure you do not exaggerate or delude yourself let alone trying to delude others. Take exercise, but not to the point of exhausting yourself. Be prompt.



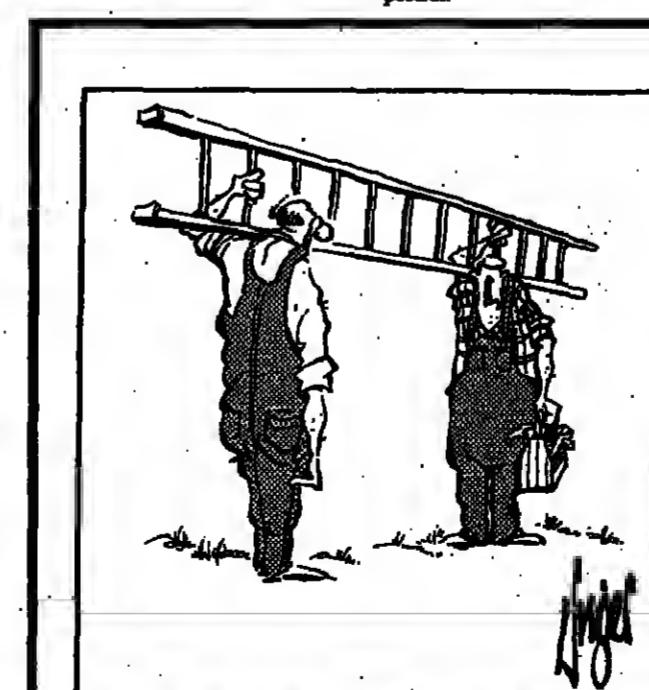
Virgo Aug 23 - Sept 22

You will be able to draw the right conclusion only if you do not jump to a hasty conclusion. A little more patience and tolerance is needed just now. Things are not quite as simple as they appear to be, but no need to make complications either. Be responsible.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

You must take extra care to avoid being late for an appointment. Do not expect others to behave just as you would like them to. Make sure you do not rely on guesswork. Be sensible.



"Let's try once more. We could get lucky the third time."



"Who ordered the chicken burger?"

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NIKON FM2 SLR camera, Nikkor Lenses: 50MM 1:2 50MM 1:1.8, Zoom 75-150MM 1:3.5. All are new. Tele. 2409691 from 6 - 9pm. (AT1-50926-3)

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Oilers head coach Glanville resigns

49ers, Browns reach finals

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan 7. (Reuters): The Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers cruised into next week's conference finals, while the Cleveland Browns squeaked in with National Football League playoff victories yesterday.

Joe Montana threw four first half touchdown passes to lead the 49ers to a crushing 41-13 defeat of the Vikings as the game hinged on a struggle between the League's number one offence and Minnesota's top-rated defence turned into a rout.

Cleveland was lucky to escape with a 34-30 victory over the Buffalo Bills that put them in the American Football Conference (AFC) championship for the third time in four years.

The Browns next face the winner of today's game between the

beavily favoured Denver Broncos and the Pittsburgh Steelers for the right to represent the AFC in the Super Bowl. The 49ers will host division rival Los Angeles Rams or the New York Giants in the National Football Conference (NFC) final.

Clay Matthews intercepted a pass by Buffalo's Jim Kelly at the one-yard line with three seconds left in the game that enabled Cleveland to hold on for a heart-stopping win in front of their home fans.

On the previous play, Ronnie Harmon dropped a Kelly pass in the end zone that would have capped a 74-yard drive and given Buffalo the win.

Following Kelly's fourth touchdown pass, kicker Scott Norwood slipped on the sandy turf and missed the extra point. With the deficit four points instead of three, the Bills were forced to go for a touchdown on their final drive rather than a field goal that could have levelled the game and sent it into sudden death overtime.

Cleveland quarterback Bernie Kosar threw three touchdown passes and kicker Matt Bahr added a pair of field goals.

However, the Browns' most spectacular play came late in the third quarter when Eric Metcalf answered a Buffalo score by returning a kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown that gave Cleveland a 31-21 lead.

Minnesota drew first blood in the NFC game when Rich Karlis kicked a 38-yard field goal to give the Vikings a 3-0 lead.

But Montana, who has led the 49ers to three Super Bowl titles in the 1980's, immediately went to work and connected with star receiver Jerry Rice on a 72-yard touchdown pass and San Francisco was on its way.

Montana picked apart the Vikings defence in the second quarter with three more touch-

down strikes that gave San Francisco a 27-3 lead at the half.

"I think the big key is you have to give a lot of credit to the offensive line. They just gave me time to throw the ball," Montana said.

San Francisco added two touchdowns in the second half with the help of a pair of interceptions, while Minnesota never threatened.

The Vikings were already trailing 41-6 when they came up with their lone touchdown of the day.

Jerry Glanville ended several weeks of speculation yesterday when he announced his resignation as head coach of the National Football League's Houston Oilers.

Glanville, who established the Houston Astrodome as the "House of Pain" for the tough brand of football he preached, said at a news conference that he was stepping down because he and team owner Bud Adams wanted "to remain friends for life."

"We concurred this was probably the best way to do that," Glanville told reporters.

Adams broke down and cried during the emotional news conference when he announced that Glanville was leaving the Oilers.

Glanville, who took over as Houston's head coach during the 1985 season when Hugh Campbell was fired, came under fire from fans and local media after his team failed to win their division title and lost last week's wild card playoff game to the underdog Pittsburgh Steelers.

Earlier this week, with Adams's permission, Glanville interviewed for the Atlanta Falcons vacant head coaching post.

In four full seasons as head coach, Glanville led the Oilers into the playoffs three times. This season the team finished with a disappointing 9-8 record, losing its last three games.

But he was named as substitute.

The one newcomer to the international squad is replacement full back Alan Buzzza, the Cambridge University captain.

The team

Simon Hodgkinson, Rory Underwood, Jeremy Guscott, Will Cartling (captain), Mark Bailey, Rob Andrew, Richard Hill, Paul Rendall, Brian Moore, Jeff Probyn, Wade Dooley, Paul Ackford, Michael Skinner, David Egerton, Peter Winterbottom.

Replacement: Alan Buzzza, Simon Halliday, Steve Bates, Mark Linnell (Moseley), John Oliver, Mike Teague.

The Irish selectors have made four changes to the side beaten by New Zealand last November, including one new cap — prop Gary Halpin.

Michael Kiernan on the right wing, Paul Russell at fly half, and Des Fitzgerald in the front row are the other additions.

The choice of prolific place-kicker Kiernan is no surprise. He replaces Ken Hooke, who only came into the side against the All Blacks because Kiernan was injured.

Russell, capped once, takes over from Australian-born Brian Smith. Fitzgerald's return was expected.

Team: Philip Rainey, Michael Kiernan, Brendan, Mullin, David Irwin, Keith Crossan, Paul Russell, Leslie Ahearn, Des Fitzgerald, Stephen Smith, Gary Halpin, Donald Lenihan, William Anderson (captain), Philip Matthews, Patrick O'Hara, Noel Mannion.



49ers' Roger Craig (right) is dragged down by Vikings' Brad Edwards. (Reuter wirephoto)

Exercise beneficial, say health experts

WASHINGTON, Jan 7. (AP): You may never win gold in the marathon — but experts say you could at least walk toward better health.

Researchers say it may take far less exercise than people had thought to lower the risk of heart disease — especially for the highest risk group, middle-aged men. They want to encourage people to literally take the first step.

"Doing something is better than doing nothing," says epidemiologist Steven N. Blair of the Institute for Aerobics Research in Dallas. "Standing is better than sitting, moving around is better than standing."

"Lower intensity exercise — brisk walking on a regular basis — provides a fair amount of benefits," says Dr. William L. Haskell, deputy director of the Stanford Centre for Research in Disease Prevention in California.

Blair and Haskell agree that the highest-risk men are those who do virtually nothing.

"There are considerable health benefits from getting out of the bottom group into the moderately fit category," Blair says. "There may be further benefits in the high-fit category."

Haskell says the men he studied changed their risk factors in key areas — lowering their body weight and blood pressure, while raising their HDL cholesterol, the so-called "good" cholesterol that's associated with a decreased risk of heart disease.

Haskell says his subjects did it with a programme of brisk walking — 30 to 40 minutes at 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 miles per hour (5.6 to 7.2 kilometres per hour) every other day. This much exercise should put your rate in the 110-125 beats per minute range, or 60 per cent of capacity.

That's significantly below what experts have considered the minimum threshold for a training benefit to kick in — 70 to 80 per cent of capacity. Haskell says this range is based primarily on studies of comparatively more fit college students by researchers who wanted to detect improvement over comparatively shorter time periods.

Vigorous

Blair and Haskell say the training threshold concept may be misleading, because smaller doses of exercise can produce some improvement.

And, says Haskell, the prospect of having to gasp and strain their way to better health at a 70-80 per cent target range has kept a lot of people from trying.

"When you look at the population over age 45, using current guidelines on exercise — 30 to 40 minutes at 70 to 80 per cent of capacity, three times a week — no more than 20 per cent of men and ten per cent of women meet that criteria," he says.

"The public may be thinking, 'how little can I do and still get away with it,'" Blair says. He says they may need less than they think.

And if you can't spare 30 to 40 minutes in a lump, Haskell says you can break it into 10-minute segments. He says that his research indicates you'll still get health benefits, and they may be nearly as great.

However, neither researcher suggests that people who are doing more should cut back. Both say there is more benefit in being more fit.

Blair says vigorous exercise can relieve stress and make you better able to enjoy other kinds of outdoor sports.

He defines high fitness in men as jogging two miles (3.2 kilometres) in less than 20 minutes, and high fitness in women as doing the same in 20 to 24 minutes.

And he says that, if walking or jogging doesn't appeal to you, then you might find some other form of aerobic exercise that can make you at least moderately fit.

Ewald resigns as president

EAST BERLIN, Jan 7. (Reuters): The president of the East German National Olympic Committee, Manfred Ewald, criticised for an elitist attitude towards sport, resigned yesterday, the official ADN news agency said.

A meeting of the national committee elected vice-president Guenther Heinzke to succeed Ewald, who had been president since 1973.

"With his resignation he drew the consequences of erroneous decisions on sport, for which he was largely responsible. In recent times criticism had grown of his leadership style and his attitude to the process of democratic rebirth," ADN said.

Yesterday's committee meeting also supported initiatives to hold the Olympic Games in both halves of Berlin in 2000 or 2004.

Nikolic keeps chess lead

HASTINGS, England, Jan 7. (Reuters): Yugoslav grandmaster Predrag Nikolic put up a stubborn defence yesterday to draw with England's Murray Chandler and keep his half-point lead in the Hastings Premier Chess Tournament.

Nikolic, playing black, came under strong pressure but steered the Englishman into a queen and pawn endgame which was drawn after 36 moves.

World championship semi-finalist Artur Yusupov of the Soviet Union won a pawn against Boris Gulko of the United States but was held to a draw in 58 moves.

Both other games in round eight of the tournament were lacklustre draws.

Results of round eight:

Jon Speelman (England) drew with Michael Adams (England).

Sergei Dolmatov (Soviet Union) drew with Kevin Spraggett (Canada).

Boris Gulko (US) drew with Artur Yusupov (Soviet Union).

Murray Chandler (England) drew with Predrag Nikolic (Yugoslavia).

Standings: Nikolic 5 1/2; Dolmatov 5; Spraggett 4 1/2; Gulko 4; Yusupov, Adams 3 1/2; Speelman, Chandler 3.

Dumars takes Pistons past Knicks

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan, Jan 7. (AP): Joe Dumars scored five of his 29 points during a 15-5 fourth-quarter run last night that carried the Detroit Pistons to their fifth straight victory, 117-106 over the New York Knicks.

Dumars scored 10 points in the fourth quarter and made 13 of 29 free shots in the game. Isiah Thomas added 20 points for Detroit.

Patrick Ewing scored 29 points for the Knicks, who saw their four-game road winning streak end.

Celtics 102, Bullets 88

Robert Parish made up for the absence of Larry Bird with 29 points and 13 rebounds, leading Boston.

Reggie Lewis, who started in place of Bird because of his sprained left ankle, had 21 points for the Celtics, who snapped a five-game losing streak at Capital Centre dating back to Dec. 15, 1987.

Willis followed with another three-point play to give Atlanta an 89-84 lead with 9:26 remaining. New Jersey got no closer than three the rest of the way.

Moses Malone led the Hawks with 26 points and 12 rebounds. Chris Morris had 19 points for the Nets.

Cavaliers 123, Magic 112

Rookie Chuck Brown scored a season-high 30 points and Steve Kerr scored all of his career-high 19 in the fourth quarter, leading Cleveland over Orlando.

Brown, a second-round pick from North Carolina State, hit 12 of 17 shots to finish nearly 24 points over his average.

Kerr's previous career high was 15 points and he beat that by hitting five 3-pointers and four free throws in the fourth period. He was 12 points over his average.

Terry Catledge led Orlando with 27 points, and Otis Thorpe had 19.

Spurs 109, Timberwolves 96

David Robinson, Terry Cummings and Willie Anderson scored 22 points apiece as San Antonio matched last season's victory total by defeating Minnesota.

The Spurs are 21-7 with 3 and 1-2 months left in the season after finishing a franchise-worst 21-61 last year.

Rockets 124, 76ers 119, OT

Akeem Olajuwon had 29 points and 15 rebounds, and his three-point play with 22 seconds left in overtime sparked Houston over Philadelphia.

1982 and at lightweight four

years ago, failed a routine urine test after winning the middleweight division at England's October trials for this month's Auckland Games. Samples showed he had an unacceptable level of the hormone testosterone.

Willey is the first British Olympic or Commonwealth Games athlete to be found guilty of drug-taking since Kenneth Brown was stripped of his judo bronze medal at the 1988 Olympic games.

Drug ban appeal fails

LONDON, Jan 7. (Reuters): English weightlifter Dean Willey, the Commonwealth Games double gold medallist suspended for life after a positive drugs test, had his appeal against the ban rejected yesterday.

British Amateur Weightlifters' Association chairman Hymie Binder said: "The life suspension stands, in accordance with the long established rules of the bawla."

Willey, Commonwealth champion at featherweight in

1982 and at lightweight four

years ago, failed a routine urine test after winning the middleweight division at England's October trials for this month's Auckland Games. Samples showed he had an unacceptable level of the hormone testosterone.

Willey is the first British Olympic or Commonwealth Games athlete to be found guilty of drug-taking since Kenneth Brown was stripped of his judo bronze medal at the 1988 Olympic games.

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He defines high fitness in men as jogging two miles (3.2 kilometres) in less than 20 minutes, and high fitness in women as doing the same in 20 to 24 minutes.

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Azinger hits 69 to grab 3rd round lead



SPORTS

Vatanen stays in front

PARIS, Jan 7 (Reuters): The longest stage of the Paris-Dakar rally, 780 kms over the desert of Niger, turned into a nightmare yesterday for dozens of motorcyclists and car drivers who lost their way in the monotonous sands of the Tenere Desert.

The day was disastrous for the Yamaha motorcycles, as French rider Cyril Neveu and Stephane Peterhansel were forced to abandon the rally with mechanical failures.

Italian Edi Orioli won the day's motorcycle racing race, maintaining first place overall, despite having covered more than 100 kms in addition to the length of the stage as drivers searched for the correct path through the desert.

Japan's Kenjiro Shinozuka scored Mitsubishi's first stage victory in the car rally, although veteran French Peugeot driver Ari Vatanen kept the overall lead despite finishing seventh after also losing his way.

Vatanen still had almost two hours advantage overall when drivers arrived in the Niger town of Agadez yesterday evening from Niamey, almost half-way through the rally.

Peugeot had to be content with a second place through Frenchman Philippe Wambergue, and Lada driver Jacky Ickx was third.

Many riders and drivers were still missing when night fell, and several had set off emergency beacons to alert rescue services. Included among these was Neveu, five times motorcycle champion of the rally, whose gear box broke up 50 kms (30 miles) into yesterday's stage.

Yamaha's honour was saved by Spanish rider Carlos Mas-Samora and Frenchman Gilles Picard, who finished second and third respectively.

Standings

1. Ari Vatanen (Finland) Peugeot, 15 hours 54 minutes 55 seconds;
2. Philippe Wambergue, one hour 49 minutes 55 seconds behind;
3. Bjorn Waldegard (Sweden) Peugeot, 1:56:05;
4. Alain Ambrusso (France) Peugeot, 4:23:33;
5. Ari Vatanen (Finland) Mitsubishi, 4:48:13;
6. Salvador Serna (Spain) Peugeot, 5:41:35;
7. Kenjiro Shinozuka (Japan) Mitsubishi, 5:51:24;
8. Miguel Prieto (Spain) Nissan, 5:54:28;
9. Hubert Auriol (France) Bugatti, 6:22:46;
10. Jean Pescarolo (France) Range Rover, 7:27:37.

Motorcycles

1. Edi Orioli (Italy) Cagiva, 48:26:16;
2. Carlos Mas-Samora (Spain) Yamaha, 1:09:46 behind;
3. Frédéric Picard (Italy) Yamaha, 2:23:21;
4. Thierry Mignaud (France) Yamaha, 2:30:10;
5. Alessandro de Petri (Italy) Cagiva, 2:39:36;
6. Gilles Picard (France) Yamaha, 2:43:43;
7. Giles Lalay (France) Suzuki, 3:09:56;
8. Jorge Arcarons (France) Cagiva, 3:10:25;
9. Gaston Rahier (France) Suzuki, 4:46:43;
10. Luigi Medardo (Italy) Gilera, 5:22:04.

Chen hands English Open title to Yu

MANCHESTER, England, Jan 7 (UPI): Chen Xinhua, the Chinese defector who now lives in England, Saturday conceded the English Open table tennis title to China's Yu Shentong because of a back injury.

Chen, 29, saved a match point on his way to a dramatic semifinal victory over Jorg Rosskopf of West Germany, but was in such pain he handed the title to Yu.

"My seven-and-a-half-month-old son cried all night," he said. "So I had to get up at 5:30 a.m. and go to sleep downstairs on the sofa. I think that is what caused the problem."

Despite his withdrawal, Cheng, who wants to be named to England's regular international team, put in a strong claim for a place with his performance in the tournament.

He wowed the large crowd with his ready smile, brilliant play and amazing range of serves as he beat the tall, stern-faced West German 21-11, 22-15, 16-21, 16-21, 23-21.

Chen, 29, saved a match point at 20-21 with a crunching forehand and then finished off Rosskopf with a service winner.

"I'm very disappointed," said Chen, a former world No. 4. "It is a ligament problem."

"I really want to play for England, and I think I am playing better now than I was at the world championships in the 1987. I am not as fit, but I will be."

Exchange deal

LONDON, Jan 7 (Reuters): Leicestershire's Wayne Clarke has joined English First Division soccer club Manchester City in a £650,000 (\$1 million) exchange deal.

The Second Division side get Manchester City forward David Oldfield and £150,000 (\$240,000).

Pakistan all out for 257**Foley hits maiden ton**

BRISBANE, Australia, Jan 7, (Reuters): Opener Geoff Foley hit a maiden first class century on his Queensland debut to leave the home side in a commanding position against Pakistan on the second day of their four-day cricket match today.

Foley, who was drafted into the Sheffield Shield squad last month, became the first Queensland player since Martin Kent in October 1974 to score a century on his debut.

At the close, Queensland were 203 for two in reply to Pakistan's first innings of 257 with Foley on 101 and captain Greg Ritchie (45). The pair have shared an unbroken third wicket partnership of 98.

Ritchie admitted the inclusion of Foley had been risky.

"I suppose it was a bit of a gamble, but we had in mind that a right and left-handed opening combination could cause Pakistan some headaches," said Pakistan's opener Shoaib.



Ritchie: batting on 45

Mohammad dropped the only chance Foley gave in his unfinished 328-minute stay at the crease, a knee height catch square of the wicket off Waqar Younis when Foley was on 46.

The home side made short

work of the Pakistan tail when play resumed this morning, allowing the visitors to add just three runs to their overnight total.

Mick Polzin grabbed the wickets of Younis (1) and Aaqib Javed (0) to finish with five for 56, his third five-wicket haul in just eight first class matches.

Queensland started well and had reached 35 before Peter Cantrell (19) attempted to drive Younis over mid-wicket but succeeded only in bolting out to Abdul Qadir.

Foley and Stuart Law (30) forged a 70-run partnership for the second wicket before law edged Qadir to Imran Khan at first slip when attempting to cut.

Ritchie joined Foley with the total at 105 for two and the pair saw out the day.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN first innings (overnight 257 for eight)

Aamir Malik c Healy b Polzin..... 5

Shoaib Mohammed c Foley b Polzin..... 5

Abdul Qadir c Qadir b Younis..... 1

Waqar Younis not out..... 35

Abdul Qadir b Carew..... 0

Waqar Younis c Clifford b Polzin..... 1

Aaqib Javed c Clifford b Polzin..... 0

Extras (lb-1 nb-8 w-1)..... 20

Total..... 257

Fall of wickets: 1-20 2-258 3-57 4-108

5-191 6-192 7-246 8-250 9-257

Bowling: Polzin 24-8-58-5, Carew

16-5-43-2, Rackemann 21-4-47-1

(4nb), Storey 17-6-45-2 (3nb), Cantrell 12-1-40-0, Foley 6-1-14-0 (1nb)

QUEENSLAND first innings

P. Cantrell c Qadir b Younis..... 19

G. Foley not out..... 101

S. Law c Imran b Qadir..... 30

G. Ritchie not out..... 45

Extras (lb-4 nb-3 w-1)..... 8

Fall of wickets: 1-35 2-103

To bat: S. Storey, P. Clifford, C.

Smeth, I. Hailey, C. Rackemann, M.

Polzin, P. Carew.

Bowling to date: Imran Khan 19-4

43-0, Aaqib Javed 20-6-41-0 (1w,

3nb), Waqar Younis 13-2-41-1,

Abdul Qadir 29-5-74-1

Younis..... 13

Mansoor Akhtar c Healy b Rackemann..... 14

Javed Miendad st Healy b Storey..... 77

Saeed Anwar c Healy b Polzin..... 28

Ejaz Ahmed c Smeth b Storey..... 44

Imran Khan c Healy b Carew..... 20

Salim Yousif not out..... 35

Abdul Qadir b Carew..... 0

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Napoli remain on top

ROME, Jan 7. (Reuters): A late header by Andrea Carnevale from a Diego Maradona free kick earned League leaders Napoli a 1-0 home victory against lowly Ascoli on Sunday, leaving the top of Italian soccer's First Division virtually unchanged.

Title contenders AC Milan and Roma blitzed three goals past Cesena and Udinese respectively and Internazionale retained second place with a fine 1-0 away win against Cremonese.

Napoli, who in their last League game of 1989 suffered their first defeat this season away to Lazio, started sluggishly against second-last Ascoli and suffered a setback in the 38th minute when midfielder Luca Fuselli left the field injured. He was replaced by Massimo Mauro.

But Napoli, whose much-criticised defence was bolstered by the return of Alessandro Renica, absent through injury for nearly four months, finally got the goal which had eluded them, thanks to Argentinian captain Maradona.

Results

Bologna	1	Juventus	1
Cremonese	0	Inter	2
Florentina	2	Bari	1
Lecce	2	Genoa	1
AC Milan	3	Cesena	0
Napoli	1	Ascoli	0
Roma	3	Udinese	1
Sampdoria	2	Lazio	0
Verona	1	Atalanta	1

RESULTS of the Hubra Bridge Centre games played on Saturday:

1/5
1. F. Saynich & Saeed Sulaiman
2. S. Singh & S. Banerjee
3. Bianca Mousali & Ahmed Tawil
E/W
1. Salman Ali & George
2. Gajar & Jawahira
3. Salman Ali & Sherin
Results of the SAS Bridge Club game played on Sunday:
1. D. Materny & B. Mousali
2. M. Maynard & S. Cattermole
3. H. Tanas & c. Sawabini

Muster, Van Rensburg finish on top

Sanchez wins New Zealand title

WELLINGTON, Jan 7. (Reuters): Top seeded Spaniard Emilio Sanchez won the New Zealand national tennis title today but only after a five-set marathon against American Richie Reneberg, playing in his first Grand Prix final.

Sanchez, the world number 17, has struggled with his form all week and made heavy weather of dispatching Reneberg 6-7 6-4 6-6 1 in 3 1/2 hours.

In the end the experience of Sanchez, who has played 17 Grand Prix finals, paid off as the match became an endurance test. "I don't think I played the big points too well. Maybe if I'd won a couple more, I'd have won the match," said eighth-seeded Sanchez.

"Maybe I was a little tired at the end. It's tough to play a match that long — it's tough to take the concentration going."

Sanchez raced to a 4-0 lead in the first set but the American staged a remarkable comeback, breaking Sanchez in the sixth and eighth games to take the set in a tiebreak.

After much seesawing Sanchez capitalised on Reneberg's



Sanchez: overcame Reneberg

the pressure, despite being 41 places higher than Reneberg in the world rankings. "I started really fast and it was going well for me, too well for my thinking, and when he started to play better I felt the nerves."

After much seesawing Sanchez capitalised on Reneberg's

SPORTS BRIEFS

NHL games

LONDON, Jan 7. (Reuters): Results of British soccer matches played today:

English Football Association (FA) Cup third round:
Charlton 1 Bradford 1 (Replay Wednesday, Jan 10)
Notts Forest 0 Man United 1 (Replay Wednesday, Jan 10)
Scottish FA Cup second round:
Ross County 1 East Fife 4 (East Fife home to Meadowbank in the third round)

Key players

PARIS, Jan 7. (UPI): Key players for as Monaco and Nice appear ready to move play in the French Soccer League after recovering from long-term injuries. Glenn Hoddle, the playmaker for Monaco out since the start of the season, is expected to resume training after treatment for a knee infection that followed surgery.

Hungarian soccer

BUDAPEST, Jan 7. (UPI): Sacked Hungarian national soccer coach Bertalan Bicskei raised a few eyebrows Friday when he announced Hungary's 1990 squad, adding yet another chapter to Hungary's soccer scandals. Bicskei, who was fired last month and replaced by Kalman Mesioly, says he is still coach of the national team and will remain so until his contract expires in 1992. But Hungarian Football Federation president, Mihaly Laczko, said Bicskei has lost control.

Talent scouts

HELSINKI, Jan 7. (UPI): A record 50-odd talent scouts from the NHL scrutinised the Junior World Ice Hockey Championship in Finland this week, looking for future stars. Tanjug, the official Yugoslav news agency, yesterday.

Top athletes

BELGRADE, Jan 7. (UPI): Over 800 top athletes have fled Eastern Europe for the West in the past 40 years, with Romanians heading the group in terms of population, said Tanjug, the official Yugoslav news agency, yesterday.

nament would give him confidence for the Australian Open later this month.

Straight after the singles, Sanchez was back on court to play the doubles final. But the match went to New Zealander Kelly Everenden and Nicolas Pereira of Venezuela, who beat Sanchez and his compatriot Sergio Casal 6-4 7-6.

● In Adelaide, Thomas Muster of Austria rallied from 0-3 in the final set to outlast American Jimmy Arias today and win the \$150,000 Australian Hardcourt Tennis Championship.

Muster won the final 3-6, 6-2 7-5 in 2 hours, 20 minutes.

The Austrian lefthander is on the comeback trail after being seriously injured when hit by a drunk driver in an auto accident in Florida last April.

Although he rated his victory last week in the Hopman Cup with his sister Arantxa slightly higher, Sanchez said his triumph in the \$150,000 Wellington tour-

"There were times when I wanted to give up, but I kept work-

£4m racecourse

LONDON, Jan 7. (UPI): Lingfield racecourse's £4 million (£6.4 million) all-weather track could be closed down in only its first season of use after hard flint stones were found on it during racing, it was reported yesterday.

Romanian stars

BUCHAREST, Jan 7. (UPI): Romanian track and field stars will be among the first athletes participating in international competitions since the overthrow of the Ceausescu regime, Agence, the official state news agency, said yesterday.

Govt criticised

SOFIA, Jan 7. (UPI): The head of Bulgarian sports, Georgi Hristov, made a stinging attack yesterday which he criticised the government for interfering in Bulgarian sports, announced the official state news agency, BTA.

ing," Muster said of his comeback from injury.

■ And in Salamander Bay, Australia, South African Christo van Rensburg outplayed Swede Mikael Pernfors 7-6 (7-2), 6-2 today to win the International Tennis Classic, a four-man round-robin exhibition tourna-

ment.

Van Rensburg ended the

three-day event with a 3-0 record.

World No 1 Ivan Lendl of Cze-

choslovakia finished second (2-1), ahead of Pernfors (1-2) and West German Carl-Uwe Steeb (0-3).

Lendl, recovered from a minor

back injury, defeated Steeb 6-4,

4-6, 6-1 in the other singles match

today at the Roche Racquet

Resort, a tennis camp owned by

former Australian star Tony

Roche, who is Lendl's coach.

Van Rensburg trailed 3-5 in

the first set against Pernfors, but

then dominated the rest of the

match.

The South African, ranked

27th in the world, served crisply,

won numerous points at the net

and frequently beat Pernfors

with low sliced backhands.

Muster, the third seed, twice

broke Arias' serve in the final set

to record his first tournament

win since suffering the career-

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"There were times when I wanted

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